

PASAULINIS PARLAMENTINIS
KONGRESAS

PASAULIO ATEITIS

GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY
CONGRESS

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD

VILNIUS, 2023 M. GEGUŽĖS 12–13 D.

VILNIUS, 12–13 MAY 2023

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

12–13 May 2023, Vilnius

Materials



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SEIMAS

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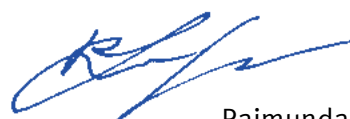
We sincerely thank those who contributed to the development of the concept and programme of the event: Members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania Mr Žygimantas Pavilionis, Mr Emanuelis Zingeris and Ms Guoda Burokienė; Ambassadors of the Republic of Lithuania Mr Rytis Paulauskas, Mr Giedrius Kazakevičius, Mr Donatas Butkus, Mr Valdemaras Sarapinas, Mr Eitvydas Bajarūnas, Mr Arnoldas Pranckevičius, Mr Simonas Šatūnas, Mr Darius Gaidys, Mr Darius Degutis, Mr Darius Skusevičius, Mr Dainius Junevičius, Mr Laimonas Talat-Kelpša, Mr Nerijus Aleksiejūnas, Ms Dalia Kreivienė, Ms Lyra Puišytė-Bostroem, Mr Ramūnas Misiulis, Mr Ričardas Šlepavičius. Our further thanks go to Ms Rūta Bunevičiūtė, Permanent Representative of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania to the European Union; Ms Agnija Tumkevič, Permanent Representative of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States of America; Ms Jurgita Petrauskienė, Attaché for Education and Research of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Lithuania to the European Union; Mr Alexandre Stutzmann, Director for Parliamentary Relations with the United Nations, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; Ms Maria Höyssä, Senior Advisor to the Committee for the Future of the Eduskunta of the Republic of Finland; Mr Jacob Dafydd Ellis, Lead Change Maker for Public Affairs and International Relations at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales; Mr Giedrius Alasevičius, Advisor to the European Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, Ms Taylor Dee Hawkins, United Nations Foundation Unlock Advisor; Ms Lisa Gotoh, Senior Policy Officer, Sustainable Development at Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations; Mr Manuchekhr Salokhudinov, Programme Officer of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat.

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We thank the brilliant moderators of the Congress sessions: Ms Jovita Neliupšienė, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, and appointed Head of the European Union's mission to the United States; Mr Paul Massaro, Policy Advisor of the U.S. Helsinki Commission; Mr Tony Barber, European Comment Editor of the Financial Times; Mr Jacopo Barigazzi, Reporter of the Politico; Ms Elizabeth Dirth, Development Director of the ZOE Institute for Future-fit Economies; Mr Mario Damen, Senior Policy Analyst of the European Parliamentary Research Service; Mr Mario Scharfbillig, Science Policy Advisor of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Sincere thanks also go to Ms Sophie Howe, Sustainability Futures and Wellbeing Adviser and the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, for delivering a speech and closing remarks at the Congress.

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Raimundas LOPATA
Chair of the Committee for the Future

INTRODUCTION

THE GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONGRESS THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD *built on the initiative of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future, which convened in Helsinki on 12–13 October 2022 to strengthen parliamentary anticipatory governance. The Congress was hosted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 12–13 May 2023.*

The purpose of the Congress was to take a look at what is on the horizon in the near, medium-term and distant future, which is relevant for the parliaments around the world, and share some outstanding examples of anticipatory governance.

CONTENT OF THE CONGRESS

The Congress was structured around three thematic topics.

The first topic was focused on the current global geopolitical tensions and their most acute manifestation, namely, Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. The underlying assumption here was that a universally acceptable future of the world was simply impossible unless the respect for the international law as the sole principle of resolving inter-state conflicts was restored in the nearest future.

The second thematic topic dealt with parliamentary democracy and the means to implement it. The participants were invited to reflect on the global challenges to democratic governance and consider ways to renew its foundations.

The third thematic topic addressed the long-term challenges facing the future of the world in connection with sustainable development, technological change and global demographic and social processes. It is high time we reviewed the general guidelines for the world's future, which were set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. The Congress called on parliaments to actively engage in the review of the Agenda at the United Nations Summit of the Future in 2024, pointing out that the heads of state and government must obtain the approval of their respective parliaments for their positions at the Summit.

PROGRAMME OF THE CONGRESS

The Congress in Vilnius was opened by Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. Guy Bernard RYDER, Under-Secretary-General for Policy of the United Nations, and Duarte PACHECO, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, were also invited to deliver their welcome address.

The three plenary sessions featured keynote speeches and panel discussions with the participation of politicians and high-level experts representing national parliaments and international parliamentary organisations.

On the second day of the event, the Congress broke into three parallel sessions to exchange practices on the implementation of anticipatory governance, focusing on national, regional and global futures foresight, transfer of sustainable development policies as the political cycles change, engagement of citizens in futures governance, and delivering on the principle of responsibility towards future generations.

The programme also featured a roundtable of heads of delegations who presented the situation on anticipatory governance in individual countries and gave their feedback on the outcome of the Congress.

The Congress resulted in the adoption of a joint statement calling on the world's parliaments to continue and deepen the discussions on the parliamentary responsibility for the future of the world.

PROGRAMME

GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONGRESS THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD 12–13 May 2023, Vilnius

PROGRAMME

Friday, 12 May

OPENING SESSION

Venue: Plenary Chamber, Building II of the Seimas, Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius

8.30–9.30	Registration at the Seimas <i>Venue: lobby, Building II of the Seimas</i>
9.30–10.00	
Welcome address	H.E. Mr Gitanas NAUSĖDA, President of the Republic of Lithuania (video message) H.E. Ms Viktorija ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania Mr Guy Bernard RYDER, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, United Nations (video message) Mr Duarte PACHECO, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Moderator	Mr Raimundas LOPATA, Chair of the Committee for the Future, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

PLENARY SESSION 1: GEOSTRATEGIC RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WORLD

Venue: Plenary Chamber, Building II of the Seimas, 2nd floor

10.00–12.00	
Keynote speaker	Ms Margareta CEDERFELT, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Riksdag of the Kingdom of Sweden, and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Panellists	Mr Duarte PACHECO, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Mr Oleksandr KORNIYENKO, First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Mr Bernard JENKIN, Chair of the Liason Committee,
House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom

Mr Andrius KUBILIUS, Member of the European Parliament,
European People's Party

Mr Zeid AL HUSSEIN, President of the International Peace Institute

Mr Žilvinas MECELIS, Founder of Covalis Capital

Moderator Ms Jovita NELIUPŠIENĖ, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania, and appointed Head
of the European Union's mission to the United States

12.00 Family photo
Venue: Plenary Chamber of the Seimas, Building II, 2nd floor

12.00–14.00 Lunch
Venue: Restaurant, Building III of the Seimas, 2nd floor

13.00–13.45 Guided tour of the buildings of the Seimas (*Optional*)

PLENARY SESSION 2: THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Venue: Plenary Chamber, Building II of the Seimas, 2nd floor

14.00–16.10

Keynote speaker Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Deputy Chair of the Committee
on European Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,
and Signatory to the Act of Independence of Lithuania

Panellists Mr Michał Tomasz KAMIŃSKI, Deputy Marshal of the Senate
of the Republic of Poland

Mr André GATTOLIN, Senator of the French Republic

Ms Khatia DEKANOIDZE, Member of the Parliament of Georgia

Mr Oleksandr MEREZHKO, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy and Inter-Parliamentary
Cooperation (online)

Mr Oleksii GONCHARENKO, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
(online)

Mr Hugo Antonio ACHA, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for a Secure Free Society

Mr Vadim PROKHOROV, Lawyer, the Defense Attorney of Russian opposition (online)

Mr Paul MASSARO, Policy Advisor, U.S. Helsinki Commission

Ms Rosa María Payá ACEVEDO, Cuban activist for freedom and human rights (video message)

Mr Sergei DAVIDIS, Co-chair of the Human Rights Defence Center *Memorial*

Mr Tom HASHIMOTO, Vilnius University Associate Professor, Director of the Baltic Institute of Economics and International Relations

Mr Anatol LIABEDZKA, Adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya in Constitutional Reform and Parliamentary Cooperation, and Director of the European Dialogue Center

Ms Natalia PINCHUK, spouse of Nobel Prize laureate and political prisoner Ales Bialiatski (online)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Moderators | Mr Emanuelis ZINGERIS, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, and Signatory to the Act of Independence of Lithuania
Mr Paul MASSARO, Policy Advisor, U.S. Helsinki Commission |
| 16.10 | Coffee and networking
<i>Venue: lobby of the Plenary Chamber, Building II of the Seimas, 2nd floor</i> |
| 16.15–17.15 | ROUNDTABLE OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
<i>Venue: Kazimieras Antanavičius Hall, Building III of the Seimas, 2nd floor</i> |
| Moderator | Mr Raimundas LOPATA, Chair of the Committee for the Future, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania |
| 19.00–21.00 | Dinner hosted by Mr Raimundas LOPATA, Chair of the Committee for the Future, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
<i>Venue: Merchants' Club, Gedimino pr. 35, Vilnius</i> |
| Speaker | Ms Giedrė BALČYTYTĖ, Chancellor of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania |

Saturday, 13 May

PARALLEL SESSIONS: EMBEDDING FUTURES IN PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

Venue: Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius

9.00–10.30

Parallel session 1

FORESIGHT: A PRACTICAL TOOL FOR ANTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Venue: Kazimieras Antanavičius Hall, Building III of the Seimas, 2nd floor

Presentations

Mr Darius ŽERUOLIS, Adviser to the Prime Minister, Lithuania. *State Development Strategy Lithuania 2050*

Mr Francisco CHAHUÁN, Senator, President of the Committee on Future Challenges, Science, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge, Senate of the Republic of Chile. *Proposal for a Foresight Institutionalility for Chile: Testimony of the Development of a Public Policy for the Future* (online)

Mr Klaus WELLE, Academic Council Chairman of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, former Secretary-General of the European Parliament. *The European Strategy Policy Analysis System (ESPAS): 10 Years of Foresight in Europe*

Mr Mario DAMEN, Senior Policy Analyst, and Virginia MAHIEU, Policy Analyst, Strategic Foresight and Capabilities Unit of the European Parliament Research Service. *Foresight in a Multinational Context – best Practices from the European Parliament*

Ms Trish LAVERY, Strategic Foresight Analyst of the Strategic Foresight Unit, OECD. *The OECD Foresight Toolkit for Resilient Public Policy*

Discussion

Moderator

Mr Mario DAMEN, Senior Policy Analyst of the European Parliamentary Research Service

9.00–10.30

Parallel session 2

GEOPOLITICS OF LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Venue: Constitution Hall, Building I of the Seimas, 3rd floor

Panellists

Mr Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner

Mr Bernard JENKIN, Chair of the Liaison Committee, House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom

Mr Lukas SAVICKAS, Deputy Chair of the Committee for the Future, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms Elizabeth DIRTH, Development Director of the ZOE Institute for Future-fit Economies

Mr Miroslav GREGORIČ, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr Toomas UIBO, Member of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia

Mr Tom HASHIMOTO, Vilnius University Associate Professor, Director of the Baltic Institute of Economics and International Relations

Moderator Ms Elizabeth DIRTH, Development Director of the ZOE Institute for Future-fit Economies

9.00–10.30

Parallel session 3

GOVERNANCE: HOW TO PUT CITIZENS FIRST

Venue: Room 218 B, Building III of the Seimas, 2nd floor

Presentations

Mr Mario SCHARFBILLIG, Science Policy Advisor, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. *Understanding Citizens – Innovative Ideas for the Integration of Values Diversity into Policymaking and Politics*

Ms Veera HEINONEN, Director of the Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA. *An Open, Participatory and Deliberative Legislative Process*

Mr Jan VAN DE VENIS, Deputy Chair, Network of Institutions for Future Generations. *Realising the Rights of Future Generations – Towards Better Governance in Parliaments and Governments*

Ms Sarah BOYACK, Member of the Scottish Parliament. *Developing a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill*

Mr Modestas GELBŪDA, Secretary General of the Seimas. *Building an Innovative, Engaged and Globally Learning Parliamentary Administration*

Ms Taylor DEE HAWKINS, United Nations Foundation Unlock Advisor. *Capability Building for Future Generations Policy*

Discussion

Moderator Mr Mario SCHARFBILLIG, Science Policy Advisor, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

10.30–11.00

Coffee break

Venue: lobby of the Plenary Chamber, Building II of the Seimas, 2nd floor

PLENARY SESSION 3: LEVERAGING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS*Venue: Plenary Chamber, Building II of the Seimas, 2nd floor*

11.00–13.00

Keynote speaker	Mr Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner
Panellists	Mr Klaus WELLE, Academic Council Chairman of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, former Secretary General of the European Parliament
	Ms Daniella TILBURY, Chair for the Global Network for Institutions and Leaders for Future Generations (online)
	Ms Sophie HOWE, Sustainability Futures and Wellbeing Adviser and the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
	Ms Taylor DEE HAWKINS, United Nations Foundation Unlock Advisor
	Mr Rodrigo GOÑI REYES, Chair of the Special Committee on the Future of the General Assembly of Uruguay
	Ms Jolita BUTKEVIČIENĖ, Director for Innovation in Science and Policymaking, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
	Ms Veera HEINONEN, Director of the Democracy and Engagement, Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA
Moderator	Mr Tony BARBER, European Comment Editor of the Financial Times

13.00–13.15 *Technical break***CLOSING OF THE CONGRESS***Venue: Plenary Chamber, Building II of the Seimas, 2nd floor*

13.15–14.00

Conclusions	Moderators of the sessions
Speaker	Ms Sophie HOWE, Sustainability Futures and Wellbeing Adviser and the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Moderator	Mr Raimundas LOPATA, Chair of the Committee for the Future, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

14.00–14.30 Press conference
Venue: Press Conference Hall, Building II of the Seimas, 2nd floor

14.00–15.30 Lunch
Venue: Restaurant, Building III of the Seimas, 2nd floor

Departure of participants

OUTCOMES OF CONGRESS

Exceptional event at the Seimas: heads of international organisations, high-ranking politicians and experts focused on common solutions to the challenges facing the world of the future

On Friday, 12 May 2023, the Seimas hosted a two-day global parliamentary congress 'The Future of the World'. The event focused on the most relevant matters of geopolitics, democracy, sustainable development, climate change, demography and social sector. Particular attention was paid to parliamentary democracy and to the tasks of national Parliaments in addressing the challenges of the future of the world.

'Parliamentary activities very often make us concentrate on the current issues, namely, legal amendments, taxes, and political party competition in the run-up to elections. Meanwhile, the committees for the future seek to deal with long-term and multidisciplinary challenges related to the development of individual countries and the world as a whole. No one can ignore these challenges today,' said Prof Raimundas Lopata, Chair of the Seimas Committee for the Future. 'One of the goals of our Congress is to promote the establishment of committees for the future and encourage all national Parliaments to focus on the fundamentals of the future of society.'

The Congress agenda was dominated by three main topics:

- Current global geopolitical situation and unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine;
- Parliamentary democracy and ways of implementing it;
- Long-term shared challenges for the future of the world and the need for reviewing the guidelines for the world's future, as set out in the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

Programme: The Vilnius Congress included the welcome addresses by Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas. The opening addresses was made by Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

During the three plenary sessions and the parallel sessions, the speeches were delivered and the discussions were attended by: Margareta Cederfelt, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Swedish Riksdag, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; Duarte Pacheco, President of

the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Oleksandr Korniyenko, First Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; Daniella TILBURY, Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations of the HM Government of Gibraltar; Virginijus Sinkevičius, Member of the European Commission; Jovita Neliupšienė, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, appointed Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America; Klaus Welle, Academic Council Chairman of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, former Secretary General of the European Parliament; Andrius Kubilius, Member of the European Parliament; Anatoly Lebedko, Chairman of the United Civic Party of Belarus, etc.

The Congress closed with a joint statement calling on the world's parliaments to continue and deepen the discussions on the parliamentary responsibility for the future of the world.

The first global expert dialogue on representation of the interests of future generations in current politics was organised by the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Permanent Representation of Jamaica to the United Nations in New York on 14 March 2023. Experts from Lithuania, South Africa, Panama, Colombia and the United Kingdom shared their insights at the event.

*Throughout the world (Austria, Chile, Estonia, the Philippines, Iceland, Canada, Poland, Lithuania, Paraguay, Finland, Thailand, Uruguay, Vietnam, **there are 13 parliamentary committees** that, like the Seimas Committee for the Future, analyse key areas of public life and propose strategic solutions that will determine the future prospects of the country and the world. The names of seven committees contain the word 'future', while the names of other committees include such words as 'sustainable development', 'general', 'grand', 'science, technology and innovation'.*

Source: https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=35403&p_k=2&p_t=284768

Heads of Lithuanian and international organisations congratulated the parliamentary Congress: we must ensure a world order based on international law



Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

On Friday, a two-day global parliamentary congress *The Future of the World* has begun at the Seimas. The participants were welcomed by the heads of Lithuanian and international organisations. Welcoming addresses included concern about geopolitical tensions, focus on Ukraine, and attention to parliamentary democracy.

In his video address, **Gitanas Nausėda**, President of the Republic of Lithuania, stressed that Russia's cruel war against Ukraine reminded that the future of the world depends on 'our collective ability to support and guarantee respect for international law'. According to the President, this means respect for borders and commitment to the non-use of force to change them.

Mr Nausėda encouraged parliaments and their members to consolidate efforts in strengthening parliamentary democracy and implementing it, thus concurrently fighting against growing threats to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. 'The parliamentary dimension is essential in achieving these goals,' stressed the President.



*H.E. Ms Viktorija ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas*

Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas, spoke about the need to ensure a world order based on international law. ‘When states respect international law, they create a stable and predictable environment in which cooperation and collaboration can thrive. This is the only way to meet the global challenges of the future,’ said the Speaker of the Seimas. Nevertheless, she stated that the international law was currently under threat: ‘We see how international norms and rules are being flouted, how an engagement in aggressive behaviour and violation the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states becomes a new norm. This threatens the stability and security of the global system and undermines our ability to solve the challenges we face.’

The Speaker of the Seimas was convinced that it was no exaggeration to say that much of the world’s political future was being decided in Ukraine. ‘The aggression against Ukraine is not just about territorial integrity or geopolitical interests. It is about the fundamental values that underpin our societies. It is about the right of people to choose their own future and to live in a free and democratic society. It is about the rule of law, human rights, and the dignity of every individual,’ said Ms Čmilytė-Nielsen.

The Speaker of the Seimas called on the parliamentarians to actively defend these values and gave the audience an example of how to involve politicians in such political processes. She mentioned her initiative to convene a High-Level Meeting of NATO parliamentary speakers on 1–3 June 2023 ahead of the NATO Vilnius summit. ‘My hope is that this High-Level meeting will help the speakers of the parliaments and other MPs be better

equipped for national debates on issues relevant to NATO as well as to contribute to the development of the consensus among member countries that must underpin Alliance policies, and help make the workings and policies of the Alliance more transparent and comprehensible to parliaments and their publics,' stressed Ms Čmilytė-Nielsen.



*Mr Raimundas LOPATA, Chair of the Committee for the Future, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Photo by Olga Posaškova, Office of the Seimas*

In his video message, **Guy Bernard Ryder**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, presented the UN Secretary-General's initiatives aimed at addressing the vital problems of future generations. He mentioned the agreement between the governments on the Declaration for Future Generations, which would recognise the needs of future generations and freedom of choice; the need for appointing a Special Envoy for Future Generations, who would, among other things, advise governments on how best to represent the interests of future generations; and the need for establishing a network of future laboratories within the UN system with its headquarters in Helsinki. Mr Ryder associated these initiatives with the UN's preparations for the *Summit of the Future* to be held in New York on 22–23 September 2024 and invited the Congress to actively contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this event.



*Mr Duarte PACHECO, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas*

Like other speakers, **Duarte Pacheco**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, underlined the need for a greater involvement of parliaments in addressing current and future challenges in the world. Mr Pacheco emphasised that the IPU, which represents 180 states and unites 47 thousand MPs, condemned the military aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of its territory. He called on parliamentarians to take resolute action because they had the decision-making power. ‘We need to cooperate with our Ukrainian counterparts and do our utmost to help win this war,’ said the IPU President. He stressed that Ukraine’s victory would be not only Ukraine’s victory, but also the triumph of the European democratic values.

Source: https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=35403&p_k=2&p_t=284811

Participants of the Global Parliamentary Congress: the future of democracy lies on the battlefield in Ukraine

Emanuelis Zingeris, Deputy Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Signatory to the Act of Independence, who spoke at the Plenary Session 2 titled *the Future of Democracy*, is convinced that the war launched by Russia in Ukraine not only infringes on the sovereignty of this country and the right to self-determination of the nation, but also constitutes an attack by the aggressor on the highest democratic ideals, namely, the right to free self-determination of peoples, human rights and freedoms.

According to the Lithuanian MP, this unjustified, unprovoked and illegal war against a neighbouring country was launched by the state that is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

‘This flagrant violation of international law has undermined the very idea of the United Nations. Since its very establishment, the main objective of the United Nations has been to unite countries and ensure their peaceful coexistence. Moreover, even a greater paradox is that in April, Russia took over the presidency of the United Nations Security Council, the key institution for ensuring international peace, after being recognised as a terrorist state or a sponsor of terrorism by the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland and the Czech Republic. It is outrageous that on 30 September 2022 the United Nations Security Council failed to adopt a resolution condemning the referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine as the result of Russia’s veto and despite the support for the resolution by all the other countries’, says Mr Zingeris.



Photo by Olga Posaškova, Office of the Seimas

He believes that the reform of the UN Security Council must be addressed very seriously. ‘The role of the United Nations General Assembly needs to be strengthened, especially in matters of international peace and security’.

The Lithuanian politician stresses that the international community must step up efforts for the establishment of the special tribunal for the investigation of the crimes of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, as this would allow bringing to justice not only those who directly perpetrated the war crimes in Ukraine, but also the Russian civilian and military leadership who gave orders to start the war, set up filtration camps, and sanctioned the systematic killings and torture. It is also necessary to provide for effective forms of reparation for the victims of these crimes.

Democracy needs fostering rather than only protection

André Gattolin, Senator of the French Republic, is convinced that democracy in Europe, especially in the West, is currently weaker and its future is threatened. In the face of the war in Ukraine, the Senator calls for a recognition that rather than being naive or blind, we were in denial of the reality of Russia’s decline from a failing democracy towards an aggressive and essentially totalitarian regime. ‘When I was first elected as Senator 12 years ago, I remember being surprised by the extensive and very active pro-Russian and pro-Chinese lobbying in the French Parliament. Luckily, the situation has changed,’ he says.



Photo by Olga Posaškova, Office of the Seimas

Michał Tomasz Kamiński, Deputy Marshal of the Polish Senate, argues that the future of democracy today lies on the battlefield in Ukraine. In his opinion, our community of democracies should adopt the strategy of taking the same approach towards our adversaries as they demonstrate towards us, which is acting solely for our own benefit.

According to Oleksandr Merezhko, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, today Ukraine has become a symbol of the struggle for freedom. The politician also reiterates that the future of democracy and humanity is being decided on the battlefields in Ukraine, and that it is therefore very important for the whole free democratic world to support Ukraine in any way possible. Democracy needs fostering rather than only protection.

Sergei Davidis, Co-chair of the Human Rights Defence Center *Memorial*, believes that the international community's tolerance of violations of democratic standards and human rights has been one of the factors that has enabled the Kremlin regime over the years to build the foundation for the current large-scale war of aggression. In his view, in our future relations with Russia we will need to correct our old mistakes and avoid new ones, to be much more consistent than before in putting human rights and democratic principles first, and to engage with the Russian civil society and maintain dialogue with it.

Khatia Dekanoidze, Member of the Parliament of Georgia, gave an overview of Georgia's prospects for European integration. She argues that, despite the anti-Western stance of the Georgian government, recent polls show that 85% of Georgians want to be part of Europe and NATO.



Photo by Olga Posaškova, Office of the Seimas

Plenary Session 2 of the Congress also included interventions by Oleksiy Goncharenko, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; Vadim Prokhorov, Russian opposition lawyer; Rosa María Payá Acevedo, Cuban human rights activist; Hugo Antonio Acha, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for a Secure Free Society; Tom Hashimoto, Associate Professor at Vilnius University and Director of the Baltic Institute of Economics and International Relations; Anatol Liabedzka, Adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on Constitutional Reform and Parliamentary Cooperation, and Director of the European Dialogue Center; Natalia Pinchuk, spouse of Ales Bialiatsky, Nobel Prize winner and political prisoner in Belarus; and Paul Massaro, Policy Advisor to the US Helsinki Commission.

Source: https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=38861&p_k=1&p_t=284824

Global Parliamentary Congress The Future of the World concluded its work with the adoption of a joint statement



Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

The keynote speakers and panellists at Plenary Session 3 *Leveraging Lon-Term Solutions* of the global parliamentary forum *The Future of the World* focused on the role of parliaments and their responsibility in responding to the major challenges to the world's development to facilitate human resilience, sustainability, and technological progress. The Congress concluded its work by adopting a joint statement.

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Member of the European Commission, being the keynote speaker of the Plenary Session, focused on the Green Deal and green transition in the context of current and future problems. He noted that the recent challenges, which include the climate change, pandemics, and Russia's war against Ukraine among others, represented a tough test to the post-World War II international order, the supply chains, businesses, and many people across the world. The Commissioner, however, was convinced that some threats, such as climate change, could be tackled.

'I often hear that if we implement a Greed Deal, if we implement a green transition, there is going to be huge sacrifices. I completely disagree with that. I think it is not about sacrificing anything. In fact, it is about ensuring that the life continues,' said Mr Sinkevičius and went on stressing that some people would say that the Green Deal was expensive despite the fact that alternatives might be more expensive. He took Poland as an example, which had previously used a lot of cheap coal for economic reasons, but had to launch

a 28-million-euro programme to fight smog. The Commissioner emphasised that ‘around 48 thousand people die prematurely every year due to ailments related to pollution, specifically from coal.’



*Mr Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner
Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas*

‘The Green Deal can ensure our strategic autonomy, because we will be self-sufficient on the resources that we can produce ourselves. The Green Deal can help tremendously as regards our people’s health and that would significantly decrease the pressures for our national budgets, especially in the lines for the health care. [...] The Green Deal can provide new, good alternatives. [...] The most important thing for us is to not try to catch up but to be the ones who form that transition and leads it,’ stressed the Commissioner.

In her intervention, **Ms Daniella Tilbury**, Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations to the Government of Gibraltar, also said that modelling of the future of the generations to come required to have a clear vision. ‘In fact, what would be very worthwhile and valuable and needed is parliamentary frameworks and governance systems that very much serve as beacons in our communities that we can construct that much brighter future. What we require now is a vision, enthusiasm, positivity, a world view that speaks about what is possible rather than how we are going to be addressing the issues that are facing us on a date-to-date basis,’ said Ms Tilbury.



Ms Jolita BUTKEVIČIENĖ, Director for Innovation in Science and Policymaking, Joint Research Centre, European Commission. Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

Ms Jolita Butkevičienė, Director for Innovation in Science and Policymaking, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, talked about the situation of democracy in Europe and civic engagement in problem solving. She stressed the crucial role of the social contract between decision-makers and citizens. 'If the values on which we shape policies do not respond to the values of citizens then the futures we are constructing with these policies will neither be resilient nor sustainable,' noted Ms Butkevičienė. According to her, in order to achieve good outcomes in political decision-making, it is crucial to increase civic engagement in all stages of decision-making.

Mr Rodrigo Goñi Reyes, Chair of the Special Committee on the Future of the General Assembly of Uruguay, claimed that due to Russia's war against Ukraine as well as various other geopolitical and social tensions we were living in the context of a poly-crisis. 'We urgently need to change the paradigm and strategies of governance. We need to work on the strengthening of social and parliamentary anticipatory capabilities. [...] As we live in a world of complex interdependence, the other key pillar is inter- and trans-disciplinary work. We need to work closer building together shared meaning and anticipatory shared sense, in both Europe, Latin America, and Africa, through collective intelligence knowledge creation. And the Future Committees of parliaments had proven to be very useful for that purpose,' said Mr Reyes.



*Mr Rodrigo GOÑI REYES, Chair of the Special Committee on the Future of the General Assembly of Uruguay
Photos by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas*

The Congress concluded its work by adopting a Joint Statement

The Joint Statement calls 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.

The participants of the Congress expressed their conviction that a universally acceptable future of the world was only possible if international law was respected, with complete abandonment of armed confrontation as a means of resolving inter-state conflicts and elimination of the consequences of armed aggression.

The Joint Statement also supports 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.

Source: https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=35403&p_k=2&p_t=284829

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.

Done in Vilnius, on 12–13 May 2023.

Participants of the Global Parliamentary Congress *The Future of the World*:

- Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs, National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia
- Committee on Constitution and Institutional Renewal, House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Belgium
- Committee on Future Challenges, Senate of the Republic of Chile
- Committee on Foreign and European Community Affairs, Chamber of Deputies, Italian Republic
- Committee for the Future, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- New Zealand - Europe Parliamentary Friendship Group, House of Representatives of New Zealand

- Senate of the Republic of Poland
- Infrastructure Committee, Sejm of the Republic of Poland
- Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, Scottish Parliament, Scotland
- Committee on Foreign Policy, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
- Committee on Foreign Affairs, Riksdag of the Kingdom of Sweden
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- Liaison Committee, House of Commons, United Kingdom
- Special Committee on the Future, General Assembly of Uruguay
- Equality and Social Justice Committee, Welsh Parliament, Wales
- European Parliament
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

SPEECHES

OPENING SESSION

12th of May

Welcome address:

Speech by H.E. Mr Gitanas NAUSÉDA, President of the Republic of Lithuania

Esteemed Members of Parliaments,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to extend my greetings to you at the Global Parliamentary Congress. This event provides a welcome opportunity to discuss the future of the world, its current challenges and necessary global responses.

By gathering here, in the Lithuanian Seimas, you strengthen parliamentary anticipatory governance and prepare to take decisive initiatives and actions in the future.

Today, with the brutal war of aggression bringing destruction to Europe, we are being reminded that the future of the world hangs on our collective ability to support and guarantee respect for international law. Among other things, it also means respect for borders and commitment to the non-use of force to change them.

We should do everything to preserve the international order based on the UN Charter, which clearly defines aggression as the use force by a state against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of another state.

Of utmost importance today is the determination of the entire international community to bring justice based on international law to all those responsible for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The persons responsible for planning, conducting and committing the crime of aggression against Ukraine must not go unpunished.

As you all know perfectly well, without accountability for international crimes, there is no justice and no chance for a peaceful world order in the nearest future.

I would also like to encourage parliaments and their members to consolidate efforts in strengthening parliamentary democracy and implementing it. We have a common responsibility to fight growing threats to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, to ensure continued freedom, peace, prosperity, and security for Europe. The parliamentary dimension is essential in achieving these goals.

We are looking forward to the upcoming United Nations Summit on the Future, which will take place next year in September. This Summit should support the implementation of

current commitments of the UN member states, primarily the UN Sustainable Development Goals, facilitate agreements on solving specific problems and restore trust between UN member states.

The Future Summit is our chance to make serious advances on youth inclusion, global digital agreement, new peace agenda, and reforming the global financial architecture.

I invite the Congress and its participants to actively engage in the implementation of Our Common Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. May the outcomes and results of today's discussion contribute to "Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow"!



H.E. Ms Viktorija ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

**Speech by H.E. Ms Viktorija ČMILYTĖ-NIELSEN,
Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania**

Distinguished guests, colleagues, and friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this conference on the Future of the World. As we gather here today, we are faced with unprecedented challenges and opportunities that will shape the world in the years to come. From the pandemic to climate change, Russia's war against Ukraine, geopolitical tensions, energy security and technological disruption, the future of the world is at a critical juncture.

At this conference, we have brought together politicians, experts and thinkers to discuss and debate these challenges, and to explore the pathways and solutions that can help us navigate this complex and uncertain terrain.

And although I do not expect that this conference will offer a silver bullet for every problem, as a politician I can say with confidence that if we are to overcome numerous challenges of the future and create a better future for all, we must ensure a world order based on international law, respect to each other and cooperation. When states respect international law, they create a stable and predictable environment in which cooperation and collaboration can thrive. This is the only way to meet the global challenges of the future.

Yet, the international law is under threat today. We see how international norms and rules are being flouted, how an engagement in aggressive behavior and violation the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states becomes a new norm. This threatens the stability and security of the global system and undermines our ability to solve the challenges we face.

It is no exaggeration to say that much of the world's political future is being decided in Ukraine. The aggression against Ukraine is not just about territorial integrity or geopolitical interests. It is about the fundamental values that underpin our societies. It is about

the right of people to choose their own future and to live in a free and democratic society. It is about the rule of law, human rights, and the dignity of every individual.

Therefore, we must take action to support freedom in Ukraine and around the world. We must stand up for the rule of law and human rights, and we must hold ourselves accountable for our actions -- or inactions.

The promotion and protection of democracy and international law is primarily the responsibility of states and international institutions that have prioritized these objectives. By default, it is also responsibility of democratic parliaments, and not only for the future of democracy and international law, but also for other emerging challenges.

As the representatives of the people, parliaments can provide a forum for dialogue and debate on the key global challenges facing our world today. In collaboration with other state institutions, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, the parliaments can help to build consensus and develop policies that address these challenges in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

With this in mind, I invite parliaments take an active role in this effort, to engage in dialogue and debate, and to work to develop policies that address these challenges of our times and the future.

One example of how to involve parliaments in political processes would be my initiative to convene a High-Level Meeting of NATO parliamentary speakers on 1-3 June ahead of the NATO Vilnius summit.

Parliaments cannot stand aside from political events. In an increasingly unpredictable security environment, this task becomes even more important. After all, it is our parliaments who are called upon to make choices about the allocation of public funds, and explain them to citizens.

Therefore my hope is that this High-Level meeting will help the speakers of the parliaments and other MPs be better equipped for national debates on issues relevant to NATO as well as to contribute to the development of the consensus among member countries that must underpin Alliance policies, and help make the workings and policies of the Alliance more transparent and comprehensible to parliaments and their publics.

Using this opportunity, I would like to ask the representatives of the NATO countries present here to urge the leaders of their parliaments to come to this High-Level Meeting of the speakers of NATO parliaments in Vilnius.

With this, I would like to conclude my welcoming remarks. And let's remember that although the future of the world is uncertain and complex, but it is up to us to shape it.

By defending our values and harnessing the power of democracy alongside of technology, innovation, and collaboration, we can create a future that is not only sustainable but also just. Thank you.

**Speech by Mr Guy Bernard RYDER,
Under-Secretary-General for Policy, United Nations**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to address the Global Parliamentary Congress on the Future of the World.

Your ambition - to build inter-parliamentary contacts that give consideration to the future - is very closely aligned with the past, present, and future of the United Nations.

In 1945, through the signing of the founding Charter of the United Nations, your diplomatic and parliamentary predecessors committed to save “succeeding generations” from the scourge of war.

Today, in the wake of a global pandemic, ongoing wars of aggression, climate crisis and rapid technological change, the threats to succeeding generations have widened.

Looking forward, humanity faces a series of long-term challenges that will continue to evolve.

These challenges include the warming and degradation of the planet, growing inequalities, managing frontier technologies, demographic shifts towards an older population, growing inequalities and the evolution of social welfare provision.

In 2020, Member States requested that the UN Secretary-General report back with recommendations to speak precisely to these current and future challenges. He responded with Our Common Agenda, his vision for the future of global cooperation.

Our Common Agenda calls for inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism, better equipped to respond and deliver for people and planet and get the world back on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. It also outlines possible solutions to address the gaps and risks that have emerged since 2015, calling for a Summit of the Future in 2024.

We hope this Summit will result in a Pact for the Future that will encompass action towards a fair and just global financial system, a commitment to a safe, peaceful and sustainable planet, putting technology at the service of humanity, and protecting future generations.

Your Congress has rightfully noted that most parliaments lack the structures and procedures for addressing issues that go beyond the remit of existing committees and the horizon of legislative terms. Through the Our Common Agenda report, the Secretary-General has reached a similar conclusion – that future generations are underrepresented in today’s multilateral decision-making bodies and that we must take action to address their rights and interests.

The Summit of the Future will thus be the platform to highlight and address the costs of short-term thinking and create guardrails around the impact of new technologies. It

should be the place where Member States take new commitments to protect succeeding and future generations through networked, agile, and inclusive multilateralism that includes the strong voices of parliamentarians.

I want to share with you today three specific actions that the Secretary-General has proposed to address this challenge and seek your support in realizing them.

First, the Secretary-General has recommended that governments agree on a Declaration for Future Generations.

Such a declaration would recognize the needs, interests, and freedom of choice of future generations, our shared duty to protect them from the harms brought by actions today, and an agreement to put in place practical mechanisms that safeguard their interests and preserve their ability to exercise their rights.

It would also acknowledge the unprecedented global catastrophic risks that could deeply impact the future potential and existence of countless generations. From pandemics to nuclear war, to frontier technologies, and climate disaster, we need to be more aware, better prepared, and effectively organized to respond to these generational risks.

As a networked group of parliamentarians, I would encourage you to support the leadership volunteered by the governments of The Netherlands and Jamaica who are facilitating negotiations on the Declaration for Future Generations at the UN General Assembly.

Your voice and institutional support could help realize an ambitious Declaration and a successful Summit in 2024.

Second, the Secretary-General has proposed the appointment of a Special Envoy for Future Generations. The Envoy would raise awareness for the interests of future generations and advise governments and organizations on how best to represent them.

Building on the initiatives of this Congress, the Envoy could also support the growing network of Commissioners and Committees for Future Generations that are emerging at the national and regional level.

This Envoy would work with both policy-advising bodies like the ground-breaking Finnish Committee of the Future, as well as Future Generation advocates like K-pop band BTS, who have been appointed by the President of the Republic of Korea as Special Envoy's for future generations and culture.

If your country has such a committee or Envoy for the Future, we would be grateful to hear about the practices that have succeeded and the challenges that have been overcome in delivering for the Future Generations of the people that you represent.

Third, we are building a Futures Lab Network across the United Nations system to apply the tools of strategic foresight to our work.

With the generous support of Finland, this network will have a hub in Helsinki with spokes radiating out.

If you are interested in supporting the Future Lab network, whether through policy expertise or financial resources, we would welcome your engagement.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I've asked for your support across an ambitious set of initiatives, but I also want to offer our support to your broader efforts.

In Our Common Agenda, the Secretary-General called for more inclusive multilateralism, one that more effectively includes the voices of parliaments, city and regional authorities, and local non-state organizations, especially those led by women and young people.

If there are offices, committees or groups in your districts that can benefit from our experience, or whose experience could benefit the United Nations, we would welcome the connection.

I also want to encourage you to accelerate your existing efforts to engage with your parliamentary colleagues across the globe, in particular in developing countries.

We will need a diverse and inclusive set of voices that can connect our present efforts towards sustainable development with the well being of future generations.

We are working in a time of incredible challenge and opportunity. This Congress, with its broad scope of participation and scale of ambition, shows the potential of an innovative 21st century multilateralism.

I look forward to close engagement with you all in the leadup to the Summit of the Future and wish you all the very best for your work in Vilnius.

Thank you.



Mr Duarte PACHECO, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

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.

**PLENARY SESSION 1:
GEOSTRATEGIC RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WORLD
12th of May**



*Ms Margareta CEDERFELT,
Member of the Committee on Foreign
Affairs, Riksdag of the Kingdom of
Sweden, and President of the OSCE
Parliamentary Assembly. Photo by
Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas*

**Speech by Ms Margareta CEDERFELT,
Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Riksdag of the Kingdom of Sweden,
and President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Honorables, Excellencies,
Members of Parliament,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an immense honour to stand before you today to discuss the essential values and principles that must continue to define our world tomorrow.

In these turbulent times, it is more critical than ever that we remain vocal in our defence of these universal principles: civil liberties, the rule of law, and the sanctity of human rights.

I address you today in a dual capacity – as a Swedish MP who has long been outspoken about Russia’s actions and as President of OSCE PA which has denounced the clear, gross and still uncorrected violations of the Helsinki Final Act by Russia in Ukraine since 2014. As well as it’s neighbours worldwide and the regimes lack of respect for fundamental HR.

To my grave dismay, we are today living in a world in which Russia chose force over dialogue – in contravention of all principles of international law.

The unjustified and unprovoked Russian aggression of Ukraine continues to cause immense human suffering. It threatens peace and stability in every corner of the globe. This is why we are compelled to speak loudly and firmly in support of Ukraine and to translate this support into acts.

These commitment go hand in hand, as demonstrated by Sweden’s Chairpersonship in OSCE 2021, the OSCE is a fundamental pillar of European Security Order and must be safeguarded.

Although some may disagree with the fact that the Russian Federation retains a seat at the table, we must remain wary of not “shooting the messenger”. Rather than denouncing powerless international institutions, we must work together to strengthen them.

In our comprehensive security architecture, the OSCE remains a unique instrument to promote links between all participating states, including through a strong transatlantic partnership, and to defend human rights and individual freedoms.

This does not mean that members of OSCE are shying away from firmly condemning the Russian Federation. I expect the upcoming Annual Session in Vancouver to once again be crystal clear in its support for Ukraine.

In particular, OSCE PA as well as the Swedish Parliament will remain clear that those guilty of the crime of aggression should be held accountable, That no war crime should go unpunished. And that an international tribunal should be instigated to investigate and prosecute all those responsible for Russian war crimes in Ukraine. Russia started the war and Russia must pay for it.

It is our collective responsibility to hold these individuals accountable to prevent such acts of aggression from occurring in the future. We must stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people to ensure that their sovereignty and integrity are respected, and that violations of international law and human rights don't get unpunished.

As pursue justice for Ukraine, we hold high the universal values that must define the future of the world.

EU was founded on the belief that countries who cooperate don't make war against each other. At that time was Europe damaged of the second world war. EU have remained a strong advocate for peace, democracy, rule of law and stability. The EU's sanctions have significantly impacted the Russian economy, driving them to establish new trade routes to evade these restrictions. The burgeoning partnership between Russia and Iran, along with their efforts to bypass sanctions, is worrisome. We must ensure no market for Russian goods exists, even if exports are feasible. To achieve this, the EU should forge stronger economic ties with Central Asia, India, and the Middle East, reducing their reliance on sanctioned Russian products and weakening Russia's connections.

Additionally, it is crucial to undermine Russia's military capacity by ensuring the effectiveness of our sanctions. Russia desperately needs Western weapon components, and we must strive to keep critical technology for weapons systems, drones, and tanks out of their hands. There is evidence that some Western components have reached Russia through third countries, which undermines our efforts to support Ukraine militarily. We must bolster our preventative measures.

As champions of freedom, we must stand firm in the face of such adversity to ensure that the torch of liberty burns high for generations to come. The human spirit yearns for freedom and it is our sacred duty to nurture that flame.

We must also realize the need to invest in – and share the burden of – protecting the free world through strong multilateral organizations. No single nation can shoulder this

responsible alone. But together we can build a just and fair global community, where all people can thrive and prosper, free from oppression and tyranny.

This goes together with a renewed commitment to international law. Rather than international lawlessness, the world of tomorrow must be defined by strong and actionable international rules.

A world of conclusion, let us reflect that we have all the ingredients to make tomorrow's world safer and more prosperous for all. But we need to generate more political will to vigorously protect freedom and the rule of law, to defend territorial sovereignty and integrity and to better equip our multilateral institutions.

To do so we must encourage our younger generations to take more responsibilities. Great leadership is not conditioned by age, gender or experience. As we do in OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as in Sweden, we must promote the role of young parliamentarians to better prepare for tomorrow.

As we face the challenges that lie ahead, let us not be deterred, but instead draw strength from the bonds that unite us and the values that we hold dear. Together, we have to believe that we can build a safer, more just and freer world for all.

Let us remember that "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing". Let us not shy away from our responsibilities, but instead rise to the challenges that we are facing today and make the world a little bit better and more peaceful for future generations.

Thank you.



Mr Duarte PACHECO, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

Speech by Mr Duarte PACHECO, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of Parliament,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to address this gathering at the Congress on the Future of the World in Vilnius. The subject of “Geostrategic Reconstruction of the World” is extremely urgent and more topical than ever, considering the current geopolitical context.

When most of us hear the words “geostrategic affairs” and “future world order,” we first think of Heads of State, foreign affairs and defense ministers, ambassadors, the United Nations Security Council, and those who are in the process of negotiating either peace or security agreements. These actions are of critical significance, and yet, there is another kind of diplomacy that I believe is of critical importance: parliamentary diplomacy.

Indeed, parliaments are increasingly expected to play a significant role in addressing the international policy challenges that will shape our world’s future for generations to come: the climate emergency, nuclear safety, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, operationalizing the SDGs, addressing global pandemics, among many others. As the representatives of the people, our involvement in multilateral affairs is critical to ensuring that policies and decisions made at the international level are fully grounded on the needs and realities of our constituents – and that global commitments are effectively implemented.

Thus, parliamentary diplomacy complements traditional inter-governmental cooperation and enhances its democratic legitimacy. This idea is embedded in the High-Level Declaration on parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism, adopted at the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Vienna less than two years ago. Accordingly, the IPU aims to bolster parliamentary participation and engagement in international decision-making processes, with the goal of ensuring that parliaments are fully integrated into a human-centered multilateral system, one that has a strong United Nations at its core and which is guided by international law.

Indeed, the IPU is closely monitoring and contributing to the ongoing process of UN reform, as well as the upcoming 2024 UN Summit of the Future. Through its Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, the IPU is mobilizing parliamentarians around key UN reform issues: improving the gender balance of the General Assembly, supporting the reform of the Security Council to be more effective and more representative, and making the UN budget and UN operations more transparent. As parliamentarians, we need to systematically apply a high degree of scrutiny and input into UN processes, hold our

governments to account for what they say or do at this forum, and exercise our legislative and budgetary functions so that international commitments become domestic realities.

We also need to do a better job in future-proofing our decision-making process. This is one of the issues that we will be examining in greater detail in the context of the Summit of parliamentary Committees of the Future, which will be held later this year in Uruguay. A high degree of parliamentary involvement in the UN will be vital in establishing the groundwork for a more efficient and democratic global cooperation system that is capable of addressing today's issues and any emerging challenges.

Needless to say, parliamentary diplomacy is also particularly relevant in the context of the war in Ukraine. The IPU, through two emergency item resolutions, has clearly condemned the Russian military aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of the territories of another State, and has forcefully called for the return to the fundamental principles of international law and of the UN Charter. We have also established a Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine: the Task Force has travelled to Kyiv and Moscow, held regular consultations with parliamentary leaders from both Russia and Ukraine, and is seeking to engage on specific issues which both sides can address – such as nuclear safety, environmentally vulnerable sites, the treatment of and access to prisoners of the war, and the grain deal.

The war in Ukraine has highlighted the fact that our current international structures are deficient, ineffective, and routinely disregarded. Repairing the common security breakdown is of critical importance. This is no small feat, but as parliamentarians, it is our duty to take action and rise to the moment. Beyond regimes and political systems, we should work together to see how we can move from the battlefield to the table of negotiations. In that regard, inclusiveness is non-negotiable: we need to ensure that women, youth, and marginalized populations are part of the conversation. We must work collaboratively across party lines, borders, and sectors, to lead by example and uphold the principles of tolerance, democracy, and the rule of law.

The IPU's vision of effective multilateralism towards a new political world order is one that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and the planet, and one that leaves no one behind. We believe that multilateralism is not just an end in itself but a means to an end – the achievement of a more just and equitable society in which all people have the opportunity to flourish both now and in the years to come.

Thank you.

**Speech by Mr Oleksandr KORNIYENKO,
First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**

**Speech by Mr Bernard JENKIN,
Chair of the Liason Committee,
House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom**

**Mr Andrius KUBILIUS,
Member of the European Parliament, European People's Party**

**Speech by Mr Zeid AL HUSSEIN,
President of the International Peace Institute**

**Speech by Mr Žilvinas MECELIS,
Founder of Covalis Capital**



Ms Jovita NELIUPŠIENĖ, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, and appointed Head of the European Union's mission to the United States. Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

**Speech by Ms Jovita NELIUPŠIENĖ,
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Lithuania, and appointed Head of the European Union's
mission to the United States**

Humanity always needed a deep shock to change the international order. Bloody wars and massacres.

The preconditions to create a new one are there. Brutality, insanity, beyond any logic. All crimes altogether: war crimes, against humanity, crime of aggression, looting and so on. The international order was broken – openly. No erosion, nor disguise, simply withered away.

And we know that the world will never be the same again. It shocks.

We can only expect further uncertainty and more threats. It can drive mad.

We can be sure that probably we have the biggest task of our generation. As the youngster say – respect.

It would be an unforgivable sin not to make use of this opportunity. To change the narrative from “if can survive” to “make up the things again”. And according to our view.

The main way forward is to recognize the truth. To evaluate and condemn the criminals. To reach the full accountability of the ones who order slaughter. We would call it a special international tribunal. With the largest possible support worldwide. Even the process towards the tribunal can distinguish and unite friends.

Second, we need to believe in democracy. Sometimes it is harder than believing in love. Rivals make use of our disbelief in democracy because it is our basis. Some say autocrats

act more effectively. Can be true, but for a short period. But Western mind is linear and counts on long term. People will always seek freedom, so will our children.

If we unite among ourselves and within the democratic world, it will give us confidence and strength.

Third, sometimes we need a straight talking to say that the politics should have primacy over economics. Containment through economic engagement and business ties failed. The adversaries took every opportunity to get richer without adopting any democratic value. We can finally learn from our naivete.

The question is what to do.

Help Ukraine with arms and let Russia lose. Winners write and change the history; others only have their stories. Are we geostrategically programmed towards victory? Lithuanians surely are, aren't we all?

First, we need a sincere and deeper cooperation among the "West", which is defined by values. Non-democrats outnumber us, they will outgun us as well. We are a bunch of different states with various interests but with one aim – at the rights and welfare of citizens, simply – to protect their dignity. Bearing this in mind, we can easily overcome internal disputes. Be it, IRA, data, different taxes or energetical choices. Unity is what the adversaries fear most and where they attack us to.

Second, we need an active outreach to the so-called "Global South". They can change the world's balance. Investments and assistance to people are not a new colonialism. Stay open to their needs and lives – they will be open to our values. Easy money is a new colonialism. Even worse – enslavement as it buys people's minds.

Third, we need to increase economic sustainability. Build resilience and phase out sick supply dependencies. The EU Commission has stepped up with some proposals that create opportunities to diversify our economies. But the key lies in every state and its will to decouple itself from autocrats. Derisking is to please ourselves. Decoupling is – if we want to live in reality.

Finally, but ultimately. We need to get ready to defend ourselves. I am afraid it is not the end. Vengeance is very human. Defense capabilities will deter adversaries far better than statements. 1 or 2 or 3 percent is the hide-and-seek behind the numbers. Ask your people whether they feel safe. That's the starting point.

You might say all is obvious. But where does our journey start? Fear is the only thing that stops us. It is human again. But when human lives are at stake, it is time to step over and beyond ourselves.

PLENARY SESSION 2: THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

12th of May

**Emanuelis Zingeris,
Deputy Chair of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs
and Signatory to the Act of Independence**

**Speech by Mr Michał Tomasz KAMIŃSKI,
Deputy Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland**

**Speech by Mr André GATTOLIN,
Senator of the French Republic**

Honourable parliamentarians, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to participate in this international conference on democracy and also a pleasure to reunite with several parliamentary friends of long standing.

To evoke the future of democracy, as we are invited to do by the title of this round table, presupposes first establishing an honest and unvarnished observation of the current state of democracy, particularly in Europe.

Democracy in Europe, and particularly in the countries that make up its western façade, is today in a situation of weakness. In France, as in the United Kingdom and in many other countries, there is even talk of a deep crisis of democracy.

If, faced with such situation, we do not find concrete and lasting solutions to the multiple and often concurrent crises that affect us, our future as a democracy is threatened.

The central question here is to draw up a relevant state of the multiple threats that influence today and to prioritize them in terms of risks for our future.

In France, the debate about the crisis of democracy is not recent, it even dates back several decades.

However, the terms in which we put it are hardly relevant: they are terribly reductive and self-centred, to the point of distracting us from other threats of primary importance.

This debate is self-centred because it focuses almost exclusively on the immediate and national manifestations of this evil. We worry about the rise of populism, the decline of citizen participation in elections, the growing political fragmentation, the chronic political instability ballot after ballot. Without being able to remedy this with effective measures, we continue to persuade ourselves that the future of democracy takes place exclusively in a vacuum, without global or external inferences.

In France, the idea that democracy, that our democracy, can be threatened, even brought down, from the outside barely touches our political thinking. Thus, when in September 2021, I published in the Senate a very detailed report on foreign interference, particularly Chinese, in French universities and research, it caused a lot of noise and was unanimously welcomed. Today however, and almost 2 years later, none of the 26 concrete recommendations I formulated have officially been implemented!

For more than 2 centuries, the successive leaders of France – all political affiliations combined – always seem to be more concerned about the risk of revolution, the overthrow of power by its people, than the risk of war, that carried out in a more or less conventional way by an external power.

Strange paradox for a country like France, which has certainly experienced many revolutionary episodes, but which has also experienced many wars, 4 years of occupation of its territory during the Second World War, but also which, unlike most its European neighbours, has retained a significant military capacity and which has not ceased since the post-war period to be militarily involved in external theaters of operation, particularly in Africa!

The explanation of the situation that has prevailed in France for more than 50 years comes from what I call the “dormant democracy syndrome”; a kind of insensitivity that has set in over time, a sense of harmlessness to outside threat and interference that has set in after decades of a state of peace and prosperity that suggests that this peace which has made us rich will last and that it will even inevitably have contagious effects well beyond European borders.

Our original mistake in building post-war Europe – and France has a great responsibility in this matter – was to abandon the project to create a European Defence Community in 1954.

Our second major collective for the whole of Western Europe mistake and which especially produced the state of lethargy which struck us until the launching last year of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine – and which I fear has not completely evaporated since – dates back to the turn of the 80s and 90s, following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the USSR.

We wanted to believe in the end of History, in the emergence of a world without enemies, in the predominance of soft structures (like Europe) over hard structures (with a culture of strong internal cohesion). In France, we have de facto stopped thinking about the future. We are invaded by a hypertrophy of the present and immediacy. No political campaign dares to propose a vision of the future. The last presidential election is a sad illustration of this.

Politics is now under the diktat of the short term, of reactivity to events, rather than offering our fellow citizens a horizon, a real project in which they can project themselves.

This intentional disappearance of the future in our political discourse is, I believe, one of the vastly underestimated explanations of the democratic crisis that is currently affecting our societies.

After the Fall of the Wall, we chose to unify Europe through the market, without agreeing to rethink ourselves politically, to think about our common future and our common defence, that is to say our ability to assert ourselves and protect us.

We believed that the victory over Soviet totalitarianism and Russian imperialism is natural and definitive.

Shortly before the great European enlargement of the mid-2000s, we proclaimed ourselves a Union, even though we did not even know how to constitute a real community among ourselves and we did not know how to build a real common house.

Believing that we could build a new Europe house, an enlarged house without a roof, without walls, without reinforced foundations was the great illusion from the 1990s to today.

Thus, the debate on the construction of a real defence of Europe has not taken place.

The sensitive question of whether we should rather build a defence specific to Europe or a strong defence based on the reinforcement of NATO has not even been asked: we have ruled out the first while drastically reducing our investments in second one.

We have chosen to reap the dividends of peace, to accelerate the opening of our markets at the same time as our dependencies, both in the field of raw materials and in the organization of the value chain, with regard to authoritarian countries and command economies. All the countries of the Union, without distinction and including France, have slashed their national defence spending.

Since the current war in Ukraine, in Paris as well as in Brussels and Berlin, we speak today of naivety, sometimes of blindness, to justify the astonishing benevolence that we have shown towards the Russia of Vladimir Putin and Kremlin leaders.

We remain, on this subject, extremely benevolent with regard to ourselves! Because in reality it is indeed denial, denial of reality, of which we should speak!

Not seeing in itself is a serious thing. Not wanting to see is complicity in crime; a crime of non-assistance, a crime against the principles supposed to animate us, a crime against our future and the future that we still dare to call humanity.

For 20 years, we have refused to see that the Russian Federation was sliding from a very flawed democracy to an aggressive and fundamentally totalitarian regime. The wars waged in Chechnya, Ossetia, Syria, Crimea and the Donbass have not opened our eyes.

No, we benignly allowed Russian influence and interference to develop in our country.

We have, while speaking of sovereignty, allowed Nord Stream 2 to be built and increased our dependence on Russian oil and gas.

We have authorized the propagandist channel RT News to throw its disinformation and its destructive narrative on our territory. We let the Kremlin networks quietly infest our parliament.

So I am of course satisfied that, on my initiative, the French Senate, then the National Assembly, voted unanimously last month for resolutions vigorously denouncing the massive deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia. Of course, I am happy to announce that last Monday the National Assembly voted, once again unanimously, a resolution asking for the inclusion of the Wagner group on the list of terrorist organizations drawn up by the European Union.

This is a very good thing, but I must say that I am waiting to see whether my country, the most directly confronted with Wagner's attacks in Africa, will do everything to ensure that this resolution is transformed into an effective decision, because the modalities of such a European inscription is much more complex than it seems...

These small political victories do not fail to leave me with a bitter taste, when I recall the comments of many of my colleagues a few weeks before February 24, 2022 who considered the French government to be too little understanding of Vladimir Putin!

I have never been one of those who believe that democracy is acquired and that it is the natural and obvious way of organizing any society. I naturally believe in the achievements of democracy, on the other hand I do not believe that democracy is acquired forever.

The ancient and recent history of France too often testifies to the cynicism it can show in terms of international relations and the support given to excessively authoritarian regimes.

I have the same concern about the European Union and its too weak capacity to resist internal divisions and the immediate and particular interests of the main nations that make it up.

If there is a positive indirect effect for Europe of the terrible conflict which is ravaging Ukraine today, it is perhaps that the political centre of gravity of our continent has shifted towards the East, that our common identity can finally evolve from a league of not always scrupulous merchants towards an authentic community ready to fight for freedom.

Freedom is not an option, freedom is and must remain the meaning of our fight. And there can be no future for democracy without this permanent fight for freedom.

**Speech by Ms Khatia DEKANOIDZE,
Member of the Parliament of Georgia**

Congress Future of the World – Georgia’s Perspective for Euro-Integration

1. Last year was the real Turn of Georgia’s foreign policy course. After the 24th of February when the Russian Federation full-scale aggression in Ukraine, Georgian authorities have chosen the side and started an open gamble with Russia. The Anti-western and Anti-Ukrainian Propaganda was activated by Georgia’s informal Ruler Bidzina Ivanishvili’s Government.

In March, the Parliament of Georgia tried to pass the very controversial Transparency of Foreign Influence Act, an Orwellian-named bill that would have curtailed free speech and would have given the authorities major leverage to persecute non-governmental organizations, free associations, and independent media agencies. Let’s be clear once more, this bill was not about foreign influence.

If foreign influence was the purpose, the authorities would be going against Russia-affiliated propaganda voices like the far-right Alt-Info and its political arm, the Conservative Movement. If it was about foreign influence, the authorities would have sought to go after the dozens of Kremlin-financed organizations that have popped up in Tbilisi since 2012 or would have raised concerns about the Confucius Institute instead of electing its local leader to Parliament.

2. Georgia struggle to get Candidacy Status, which it did not acquire, because of Russian influence endorsed by the government. But instead of fulfilling the 12 recommendations GD failed and backslides everything it can. The people witnessed a direct attempt by one political party to steal an entire nation’s dreams of European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Of course, we all saw it happen progressively and at a rapidly increasing speed over the last year and since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but this was the last straw. Tens of thousands of people took to the street. They were from every generation because Georgia’s European aspirations are of a historical and ancient nature, but the youth were particularly well-represented. Some are calling it the “Gen Z revolution”, a leaderless movement of youth groups who never knew the Soviet Union, grew up in a free Georgia, and cherish freedom more than anything else. Young people with no political ambitions, with only their country at heart, managed to bring down what was clearly an operation by the Kremlin. This carries a huge historical weight that will make every enemy of freedom think twice before trampling on independence and democracy. For them, this wasn’t a political fight, it was a struggle for survival for themselves and their future, which made the violent dispersals against peaceful protesters even more shocking.
3. According to the latest polls, 85 percent of Georgians want to be part of Europe and Nato. The majority of Georgians see Russia as a threat, but it is not the lighthouse

for GD. They openly started anti-Western propaganda even in the worse of its forms. Gharibashvili attended the conference in Budapest repeating homophobic and false narratives about Conservatives and patriotism.

4. The last drop in the bowl was Putin's decision to grant the visa Free for Georgia's citizens and renew flights from Moscow to Tbilisi. It was an award of Putin to GD and Ivanishvili to help with propaganda "Everybody wants to drag Georgia into the Wa
5. Case of Mikheil Saakashvili and Nika Gvaramia. No changes and European standard approach to transfer 3rd President of Georgia and realizing Nika Gvaramia.
6. Dilemma – Georgian People are European, but the Government is an oligarchic pro-Russian entity. What should the West do not to lose Georgia geopolitically and Georgians do not lose the future of the country?

Recommendations:

- Personal responsibility to the people who drag Georgia to Russian orbit and promote an anti-Ukrainian Campaign;
- Different approaches oriented on Georgian National and not the Government; If Georgia will be out of the Status, it means anti-Western propaganda and repressions will throw it to Russian arms;
- Long-term Monitoring elections missions.
- Support the opposition Between UNM and GD.

**Speech by Mr Oleksandr MEREZHKO,
Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy
and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (online)**

**Speech by Mr Oleksii GONCHARENKO,
Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (online)**

**Speech by Mr Hugo Antonio ACHA,
Senior Research Fellow at the Center for a Secure Free Society**

**Speech by Mr Vadim PROKHOROV,
Lawyer, the Defense Attorney of Russian opposition (online)**

**Speech by Mr Paul MASSARO,
Policy Advisor, U.S. Helsinki Commission**

**Speech by Ms Rosa María Payá ACEVEDO,
Cuban activist for freedom and human rights (video message)**

**Speech by Mr Sergei DAVIDIS,
Co-chair of the Human Rights Defence Center *Memorial***

The theme of our panel is the future of democracy. The future arises from the present and builds on the past. As a Russian, it is all the more difficult for me to discuss the future outside the context of the horror that my country brings to Ukraine today and without analysing the lessons of the past that led to today's tragedy.

We, Memorial and many other Russian and human rights organizations have documented the violence in the North Caucasus - the killings, destruction of homes, kidnappings, torture and illegal persecution - during the two Chechen wars and until recently.

Over the past two decades, the criminal prosecution of dissidents and other undesirable citizens has become an important component of Russian domestic policy. Since 2009 we have been documenting political repression, compiling lists of political prisoners, drawing international attention to the fates of hundreds of political prisoners and to the problem itself.

For decades, Russia's domestic politics drifted farther and farther away from democratic standards, more and more restrictions were placed on civil rights and freedoms, more and more restrictive and repressive laws were passed, and Russian and international NGOs drew attention to them.

This is not to say that it has gone completely unnoticed by the international community, but now, looking back, we can confidently say that the response to these deviations from legal and human rights standards, even after they took the form of external aggression in 2014, remained clearly insufficient.

This tolerance for the violation of democratic standards and human rights was one of the factors that allowed the Kremlin regime over the years to build the foundation for the current full-scale war of aggression.

It is on impunity for government crimes and the system of repression that the Kremlin regime's ability to wage this war is based.

This is nothing new. All these years we have repeated: human rights violations in a particular country - in our country, in Russia - are not just a matter of moral, humanitarian or legal concern. It was quite a pragmatic question of concern for our common future. As Andrei Sakharov said back in 1975 in his Nobel lecture, peace, progress and human rights are inseparable; one is impossible without the other.

It is likely that consistency and firmness in the defence of democratic principles and human rights at one time could have prevented today's developments, when the defence of the future of freedom and democracy is much more expensive in economic terms, and most importantly, paid for with the lives of tens of thousands of heroic defenders of Ukraine and peaceful Ukrainians.

But after the victory of Ukraine and the defeat of the Kremlin, these lessons of the past will again become relevant.

I am sure that Russia will become a democratic country, the Russian people simply have no other choice, no other way to respond to the challenges and demands of the time, meanwhile researches show that Russians belong to the European family by their values and attitudes.

Of course, building a free democratic Russia is the responsibility of the Russians themselves, and no one will build it in their place. However, the outside world will be able to assist them or not. Approaching the creation of a democratic, peaceful and good-neighbourly Russia is in the common interest of Europe and the democratic world. And building relations with Russia in the future will require not repeating old mistakes and not making new ones.

In this sense it is impossible to consider the sometimes-declared intention to fence off Russia with a moat with crocodiles as a constructive plan. Such an approach does not solve the problem of a potential threat emanating from Russia, but rather the opposite.

On the other hand, in re-establishing and building relations with the Russian state, it will be crucial to put human rights and democratic principles at the forefront much more consistently than before.

In particular, just beginning discussions on a minimal normalization of relations with the world, at least a partial lifting of sanctions, it will be important to demand the release of political prisoners and an end to political repression.

On the other hand, it would already be useful to support the self-organization of the Russian anti-war, pro-democracy diaspora on a democratic basis, to build a dialogue with its democratic structures.

Firstly, this would create an important precedent of democratic self-organization, and secondly, it would increase the influence of a democratically oriented and organized diaspora on the processes in Russia now, and more importantly, in the future, when the window of opportunity opens.

But this experience is important not only insofar as a democratic Russia is important for the democratic future of the world.

Russian 19th century philosopher Pyotr Chaadayev wrote: "Sometimes it seems that Russia is destined only to show the whole world how one should not live and what one should not do.

And indeed the extreme experience of problems in the establishment and preservation of democracy which Russia has shown in the last 30 years is important not only for Russia, but also for the future of democracy in general.

Mr Tom HASHIMOTO,
Vilnius University Associate Professor,
Director of the Baltic Institute of Economics and International Relations

Mr Anatol LIABEDZKA,
Adviser to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya in Constitutional Reform and Parliamentary
Cooperation, and Director of the European Dialogue Center

Ms Natalia PINCHUK,
spouse of Nobel Prize laureate and political prisoner Ales Bialiatski (online)

PLENARY SESSION 3: LEVERAGING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

13th of May

Speech by Mr Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner



Mr Klaus WELLE, Academic Council Chairman of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, former Secretary General of the European Parliament. Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

Speech by Mr Klaus WELLE, Academic Council Chairman of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, former Secretary General of the European Parliament

How can parliaments help to leverage long-term solutions?

The European Union is the citizens best chance to get a focus of political actors on the long-term. Policy decisions are not dominated by issues of the purse, but structural reform with effect over the mid and long-term. Its budget is not about consumption, but an investment budget. It keeps available the highly qualified multinational staff which is capable to elaborate for the member states and the European Parliament innovative proposals and solutions. Decision-making procedures are slow, but once finalised guarantee a large political and geographical consensus. And it allows more than 440 million European citizens to negotiate internationally as equals and from a position of strength.

The European Parliament in my nearly 14 years as Secretary General has tried to provide concepts to institutionalise thinking over the long-term and do that systematically rather than accidentally.

Starting 10 years ago we did revive the work on the Cost of Non-Europe with a specialised unit focusing on it. The idea of Cost of Non-Europe was originally behind the remarkable success of the internal market project, but afterwards largely forgotten.

We did show early on, that there is a huge unused potential for growth without debt. When you can demonstrate that there is a potential of hundreds of billions for non-debt based growth out there through intelligent regulation, you have all the chances to shape the agenda and establish consensus even with the most integration reluctant governments. Digital featured as the most prominent single item. I do know that this revival had a huge impact on the reflection of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in preparation of his term in office.

Cost of non-Europe is approaching systematically the long-term from the opportunity angle. You can also do that focusing on risk.

The European Parliamentary Research Service under its founding General Director Anthony Teasdale developed a methodology on risk, capabilities and long-term planning. Risks can be classified according to whether they are more or less likely to realise and whether the effects would just be sectorial or systemic. Systemic risks being very likely to happen need special and urgent attention.

In a second step you can verify whether tools are already available either on the national level or inter-governmentally or integrated into the European Union framework. If the outcome is that neither regulatory nor financial resources are available, all alarm bells should be ringing. Or in other words, appropriate measures should be integrated into the midterm planning of the European Union as foreseen under the treaties.

Both cost of non-Europe methodology and risk and capability analysis provide a systematic and institutionalised approach for mid term planning and leverage long-term solutions. They also facilitate to find consensus for a non-ideology, but needs based integration agenda.

The European Parliament has also Initialised the ESPAS process on global trends and foresight. Budgetary amendments put forward by the British Conservative MEP James Elles in 2010 and 2012 set in motion a process of cooperation among the highest levels of European Union civil servants across all institutions developing a joint view on the challenges ahead.

A decade onwards the process has not only resulted in numerous annual foresight conferences and several reports to the Presidents of the EU institutions, but maybe more importantly the creation of a Vice President of the European Commission responsible for foresight, a regular meeting of the ministers of the future and the establishment in most of the EU institutions of specialised foresight units as Centers of excellence. Foresight is becoming part of our institutional DNA.

Foresight helps us to give the future a voice in the political process. Generational Justice depends on it. We can neither sacrifice the future for the present, nor sacrifice the present for the promise of a bright future that is maybe never going to come, as commonly practised during the time of communist regimes.

Sustainability has to be the guiding principle across policy areas.

In a new function as Chairman of the Academic Council of the Martens Centre I have pioneered a reflection on the 7D's for sustainability: Debt, defence, digital, democracy, demography, de-carbonisation and de-risking of globalisation. Our request is "focus future". We are suggesting 175 projects for sustainability as an inspiration for the next term in office of the European Commission 2024 to 2029.

The document is now publicly available and shall serve as a basis for a large consultation before it will find its final form towards the end of this year.

All of you are wholeheartedly invited to participate in this process.

**Speech by Ms Daniella TILBURY,
Chair for the Global Network for Institutions
and Leaders for Future Generations (online)**

**Speech by Ms Sophie HOWE,
Sustainability Futures and Wellbeing Adviser
and the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**

**Speech by Ms Taylor DEE HAWKINS,
United Nations Foundation Unlock Advisor**



*Mr Rodrigo GOÑI REYES, Chair of the
Special Committee on the Future
of the General Assembly of Uruguay.
Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office
of the Seimas*

**Speech by Mr Rodrigo GOÑI REYES,
Chair of the Special Committee on the Future of the
General Assembly of Uruguay**

ANTICIPATORY INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE. A paradigmatic change is required to bring the future to the present to rethink the *Democracy of the Future*.

Rodrigo Goñi

National Representative
Chair of the Special Futures Committee,
Member of Parliament of Uruguay

Gustavo Olmos

National Representative
Member of the Special Futures Committee,
Member of Parliament of Uruguay

Lydia Garrido Luzardo

Head of Futures, Special Futures Committee,
UNESCO Chair in Sociocultural Anticipation
and Resilience

ANTICIPATORY INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE. A paradigmatic change is required to bring the future to the present to rethink the *Democracy of the Future*.

The Global Parliamentary Congress *The Future of the World* is inviting us to discuss issues that are relevant to our societies and to reflect on the near, medium-term, and distant future. This presentation framed to discuss how we can turn the lever point for change: the need to *transform the future in the present*.

I – INTRODUCTION

The world today is facing numerous, complex and simultaneous set of challenges. We are living in a context of *Polycrisis*, a ‘perfect storm’ with the threat of maybe irreversible tipping points in many systems (ecological, social, political, economic). There have been

polycrisis in the past, although not global in scale. We have faced crises in the past, but none have been global in scale. We are dealing with climate change, which is in a dangerous phase for humanity and the planet. There is the threat of nuclear war; we are also facing pandemics, like the recent Covid-19 outbreak, global market downturns, and the threat of social stress and destabilization.

We urgently need to change the paradigm and the strategies to address these issues. As Einstein said, “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when creating them” We need to use complex, relational, anticipatory approaches. We need to shift *from reaction to anticipation and transformative policies*. The problem ‘in itself’ is not in the long-term; the ‘problem’, the multiple problems, are in the ‘here and now’ and we need to ‘use the future’ to change them *in the present*.

We want to call the attention in what we think is one of the main key pillars to address the adequate view stance: we need working *on the strengthening of anticipatory endogenous capabilities* (‘futures literacy’ as Riel Miller, UNESCO former leader of Anticipation and Futures Literacy Project and the Global FL Network of UNESCO Chairs advocates for a wiser and multiple ‘use of the future’), working on the strengthening of *social extensive anticipatory capabilities*, and in our parliamentary tasks, going from reaction to anticipation *through the strengthening of parliamentary anticipatory capabilities*.

It is addressing the ‘framing problem’ changing paradigms to be better address the problems we live within: complexity, uncertainty, permanent novelty creation and interdependences. In other words, it will allow us to better articulate multiple complex causes and the dynamics of change - the long-term with the ‘here and now’- plus the role of will (and *free-will*) in the decision-making.

The other key pillar is inter and transdisciplinary work. We live in a world of complex interdependences, a world with multiple butterflies flapping their wings and generating metaphorical and real hurricanes. These interdependences pose significant challenges, including the spread of diseases, the destabilization of political systems, and the rise of global inequality. We need to address it locally and globally at the same time.

We need to work closer, building together share meaning, anticipatory share sense through collective intelligence knowledge creation. Futures Committees of Parliaments have proven to be very useful and adequate.

II – ANTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF TRANSITION TO AGI

Anticipatory governance involves recognizing and understanding emerging phenomena, generating shared meaning and creating common purposes to transform problems in the present and achieve common goals while we walk the becoming. It requires futures literacy capabilities (how to ‘use the future’ using appropriate frames and technics), complex and inter and transdisciplinary thinking. This approach can be applied to a wide range of

policy areas, from climate change to healthcare, and can help us better understand the potential impacts of new technologies like AI.

We are living in an era of rapid change, with significant implications for individuals, communities, nations and the planet as a whole. This context is characterized by acceleration, deepness, disruption, and interdependence. I will now put the accent on technological change.

The pace of technological development has accelerated in recent years, with advances in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics. We are in the path from the Internet of Things (IoT) to the Internet of Everything (IoE).

AI and other emerging technologies are transforming the way that we work, communicate, and interact with one another. These changes are disrupting existing industries and challenging traditional models of governance, decision-making, participation and actual policies.

The **future of democracy** in the context of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is an area of active discussion and debate among scholars, policymakers, and technologists. AGI refers to the hypothetical development of artificial intelligence that is capable of performing any intellectual task that a human can.

The development of AGI poses unprecedented challenges for democracy. On the one hand, AGI has the potential to revolutionize (in a positive way) democratic processes by enabling more efficient and effective decision-making, increasing accessibility and transparency, and supporting innovation. For example, AGI could help identify patterns and trends in complex datasets, making it easier for policymakers to develop evidence-based policies and programs.

On the other hand, AGI could also pose significant risks to democracy if not properly managed. One concern is that AGI could be used to manipulate public opinion or carry out sophisticated disinformation campaigns, threatening the integrity of democratic processes. Additionally, the development of AGI raises ethical and legal questions around the accountability and responsibility of AI systems, which could have significant implications for the democratic process.

To ensure that the development of AGI supports and strengthens democracy, it is essential to promote ethical and responsible AI development and deployment. This includes ensuring that AI is transparent, explainable, and auditable, and subject to appropriate oversight and regulation. Additionally, it is essential to foster public dialogue and engagement on the development and use of AI in the democratic process, and to promote research and development into the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AGI.

We need an anticipatory global governance of AGI. A task as difficult and complex as necessary. We must try if we want to preserve democracy and the human values that we have agreed upon since 1948. Our recognition to Jerome Glenn and The Millennium Project

Think Tank in their advocacy since many years for an anticipatory global governance of AGI.

Although many could be not convinced in this possibility, we need to find how to articulate local and global regulation for AGI, which would oversee the development and deployment of AGI and ensure that it is aligned with ethical and social values. This platform needs to work in collaboration with governments, industry, and civil society to develop ethical standards for the development and deployment of AGI, and to ensure that these standards are enforced.

Parliaments have an outstanding role in this matter. To address these challenges, we need to recognize the need for innovative approaches to governance that incorporate the future in present decision-making to transform them before. The use of AI in decision-making processes should be subject to transparency and accountability standards to prevent the risks of manipulation and control.

Shortly, the challenges posed by the accelerating pace of change, the deepness and complexity of the challenges we face, the disruptive effects of technology and innovation, and the interdependence of our world require innovative approaches to governance that incorporate the future in present decision-making. Anticipatory governance is one such approach that can help us bringing the future to act in the present. To address this challenge, we must strengthen the anticipatory capacities of parliamentarians and Parliaments, promote innovative approaches to governance, and expand spaces of collective intelligence.

III- THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY OR THE DEMOCRACY OF THE FUTURE

We want to introduce the distinction between the *future* of democracy with the *democracy* of the future to focus on what we need to do now to build the democracy that future is challenging us in the present.

The ***Democracy of the Future*** is an extremely important issue that is starting to be at the center of the debate in Parliaments. At the next *World Futures Committees Summit in Uruguay*, we are proposing the concept as a trigger for reflection and exchanges to frame the challenges that AI implies in the intersection with other technologies and problems that are impacting in the essence of democracy: pluralism, freedoms, and popular sovereignty.

The challenge of *The Democracy of the Future* requires a collective effort rigorous imagination and thorough reflection from all actors for a collective practice of *anticipatory responsibility*.

We are imagining a Global Ecosystem of Anticipatory Governance sharing best practices and promoting collaboration among nations with an outstanding participation of Parliaments. We are inviting to coming along with a *Global Network of Parliamentary Futures*

Committees with the Inter-Parliamentary Union as the big platform to contribute to the UN *Pact for the Future* and with concrete suggestions and participation in the next UN *Summit for The Future*. Parliaments are key actors to develop relevant international cooperation and solidarity among nations to address global challenges and preserve democracy.

The initiative of a Global Network of Parliamentary Futures Committees that we are proposing to work on during the next World Summit of the Committees of the Futures, it would serve as a forum for exchanging ideas and best practices among parliamentarians and experts in anticipatory governance, providing a specialized platform for promoting anticipatory capabilities and futures thinking, and collective intelligence with the integration of multiple other knowledge permanently for identifying emerging trends, anticipatory action on threats and revealing opportunities and potentialities that could benefit society.

Finally, we want to highlight those events like the former World Summit in Finland, this Global Parliamentary Congress we are participating in, the next II World Summit of the Committees of the Future in Uruguay and the following ones as the UN Summit of the Future should contribute to Parliaments, societies, and democracy:

- Emphasizing the critical role that parliaments play in government and highlights the importance of anticipatory parliamentary practice to promote desirable development conditions for societies to evolve coping with change in the terms of change.
- Helping to reveal the pivotal importance that today has working on extensive anticipatory capabilities to embrace complexity, uncertainty, ambiguity, and novelty.
- Provoking to rethink democracy reflecting on the *future of democracy in the present* within new era-changing conditions in ‘coexistence’ with technologies in continue development and with disruptive actual and potential capacities as AI is having today.
- Inviting and facilitating spaces to work towards innovative global anticipatory governance, generating common points and fostering collaboration, trust, and knowledge-sharing and allowing to learn from collective intelligence interactions.
- Fostering and strengthening relationships and interactions with other parliaments, institutions, and international organizations.
- Fostering the creation of the *Global Network of Parliamentary Futures Committees* with a significant role within a *global anticipatory ecosystem*.
- Contributing to UN efforts for a *Pact for the Future* with significant comings from Parliaments, the Global Network of Futures Committees, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

It only remains for us, from Uruguay to salute and celebrate all the efforts that parliaments and international organizations and institutions are making *to bring the future to the present*.



**Speech by Ms Jolita BUTKEVIČIENĖ,
Director for Innovation in Science and Policymaking,
Joint Research Centre, European Commission**

*Ms Jolita BUTKEVIČIENĖ,
Director for Innovation in Science and Policymaking,
Joint Research Centre, European Commission
Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas*

SPEAKING POINTS

- For policies that work better and will be sustainable tomorrow, we must ensure that they are informed by scientific evidence. Providing scientific evidence needs to be systematic and done through defined pathways within the policy-making cycle.
- A robust science-for-policy ecosystem:
 - ▶ would ensure that the scientific evidence is there when decision makers need it,
 - ▶ will provide unbiased, future-proof and socially sensitive evaluation of the impact of policy proposals and their implementation, thus helping to devise solutions that work
 - ▶ would help distinguish facts from politics in the public debate
- But we have to deliver policies that not only work but that citizens also want. If the values on the basis of which we shape policies do not correspond to the values of citizens, then the futures we are constructing with these policies cannot be resilient or sustainable.
- In the quicksands of misinformation, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that every time citizens oppose something we - policymakers, do, they are simply misinformed and that we have to “correct” them.
- So how can we distinguish misinformed opinions from legitimately different takes on the same trustworthy information?
- In the JRC, we have brought together interdisciplinary insights from the social and behavioural sciences and looked in-depth into the values and identities that shape the political process. The scientific evidence points to a few assertions which we should bear in mind when devising policies:
 - ▶ On the issues people care about the most (the most contested policy issues), the values stemming from their social groups automatically colour their views and no evidence or rational argumentation is able to overturn them. That means that from

the same information, different people would draw completely different conclusions based on their values.

- ▶ Values are highly stable at individual level. But group values shift because of societal and political developments and they affect personal values. Personal values are, of course, linked to political attitudes. But when parties change their positions, citizens partially change their political attitudes while their personal values stay the same.
- ▶ The conclusion is that evidence-informed policy making by itself would not be enough to convince people that the policies we devise are good, i.e. that they are in accordance with their political views and values. Policy-making must also be more participatory - from the very beginning of the policy-making cycle.
- A deliberative democracy establishes legitimate spaces for ordinary citizens to be involved in policy and decision making – systematically, not only in times of elections and referenda.
- Policymaking must also be forward-looking and anticipatory. To address the “wicked” problems facing us we must be better prepared than when the COVID pandemic hit us or when Russia started a war of aggression in Ukraine.
- Strategic foresight can help us to anticipate profound changes and to prepare and better shape policies and decisions. Strategic foresight provides the safe space to think the unthinkable. This looking ahead gives us the agency to prepare, adapt and prevent some of the most undesirable outcomes.
- 4 years ago, in the European Commission, strategic foresight was included in the portfolio of Vice President Sefcovic. Since then strategic foresight has become embedded at various levels of decision making in the European Commission and across the EU institutions.
- Horizon scanning - detecting signals of change and emerging trends and making sense of their possible evolution, is a critical capacity. For example:
 - ▶ In the coming decades, there is a possible crisis over sand supply - the 2nd most used resource after water. Modelling exercises show a 45% increase in global sand use for the construction sector from 2020 to 2060. However, the United National Environment Programme (UNEP) released a report in April last year warning that current extraction of sand exceeds the replenishment rates, leading to shortages, socio-economic conflicts and environmental degradation.
 - ▶ Lunar economy: lunar economy encompasses all general economic activity associated with the production, use, and exchange of lunar resources on the Moon’s surface, in lunar orbit and on Earth and it has been estimated that it will be worth 170 billion USD by 2040,

- The monitoring and analysis of megatrends - trends that are visible today and are expected to have a significant impact in the years to come (like aggravating resource scarcity, continuing urbanisation or increasing demographic imbalances) must be a routine exercise embedded in the policy-making processes in an explicit manner if the policies we devise are to be future-proof.
- Developing foresight scenarios and applying them to stress test policies and inform long-term strategies is another exercise which can inform more sustainable and resilient policies.
- For all this to be applied, policymakers at different levels of government need to be equipped with the necessary skills:
 - ▶ To embed foresight in the policy cycle, policymakers must be “futures literate” – they must have the competences to spot change, to understand change and to direct change.
 - ▶ To provide evidence for informed policymaking, scientists must have the skills to link the dots, formulate the issues and communicate the relevant science to policymakers.
 - ▶ To assess the impact our policy proposals would have in the future we need models which are based on crosscutting social criteria and on foresight considerations.
- To conclude: to ensure that the policies we bring forward are resilient and sustainable, we must:
 - ▶ create and maintain robust science-for-policy ecosystems,
 - ▶ increase citizen engagement at all stages of the policymaking cycle
 - ▶ ensure foresight analysis within the strategic thinking provide for the necessary skills across the board to support all this.

**Speech by Ms Veera HEINONEN,
Director of the Democracy and Engagement, Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA**

Parallel session 1

FORESIGHT: A PRACTICAL TOOL FOR ANTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Parallel session 2

GEOPOLITICS OF LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Parallel session 3

GOVERNANCE: HOW TO PUT CITIZENS FIRST

FAMILY PHOTO



*The photos of the event are published on the Seimas Flickr account or in the Committee for the Future section.
Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas*

ANNEXES

PARLIAMENTARY CONGRESS THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD 12–13 MAY 2023

CONCEPT OF THE EVENT

The participants of the Congress are invited to discuss *the role and responsibility of parliaments in shaping and steering the future of the world*.

The Congress will consist of three thematic sessions, aimed at the most pressing and strategically oriented geopolitical topics, a round table of the heads of the delegations, and a set of parallel sessions open for presentations by the parliamentary delegations from around the world.

Each thematic session will start with a keynote speech followed by a panel debate and will end with an open discussion. At the end of each parallel session, moderators and/or rapporteurs will make a summary.

The Congress is expected to end with the adoption of a joint statement on the inter-parliamentary collaboration in shaping the world's future.

Plenary session 1: Geostrategic Reconstruction of the World

Indicative topics:

- *The conflict in Ukraine in the geostrategic perspective*
- *The reform of the United Nations Organization: towards a new political world order?*
- *The impact of geostrategic shift on social and economic futures*

The first plenary session of the Congress will confront the prospects of geostrategic change triggered by Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. The session will embrace the formation of a multipolar world, possible trajectories and structures of world governance, and the impacts of geostrategic shifts on global social transformations and the world economy.

Plenary session 2: The Future of Democracy

Indicative topics:

- *Political parties and ideologies in the future*
- *Participation, influence, and (dis)information*
- *Parliamentarianism and governance in the future*

The second plenary session of the Congress will focus on the drivers of change and the foundations of future political organisation of world society(ies). The participants will be invited to reflect on the changing nature of societal political formations; their underlying ideologies; the traditional and new forms of political participation; and the realm of competing identities, values and narratives, and the ways they are being instrumentalised. This discussion may underpin the debate on possible evolution of parliamentarianism and (its role in) public governance.

Plenary session 3: Leveraging Long-Term Solutions

Indicative topics:

- *Enabling reliable futures: resilience, sustainability, and the role of parliaments*
- *Rewriting the code: cultural foundations of future humanity*
- *Leveraging technologies, the leverage of technologies*

The third plenary session of the Congress will discuss the specific mission and responsibility of parliaments in tackling strategic issues of global development. The preparation and implementation of strategies is usually seen as the business of the heads of state and government. By their nature, however, democratic governments are the derivatives of parliaments, which have the direct mandate of the people. This means that the most sensitive and the most crucial decisions of governments must be approved by parliamentarians. Therefore, parliaments must be well equipped to judge on the quality and relevance of these decisions.

The speakers and panellists of this session are welcome to reflect on the role of parliaments in tackling the challenges of resilience, sustainability, and technological development of humanity; and to exchange their insights on the cultural, ideological and epistemological framing of such future-oriented parliamentary decision-making.

Parallel sessions: Embedding futures in parliamentary practice

Indicative topics:

- *International parliamentary collaboration in futures governance*
- *Parliamentary futures technologies: empowering, consensus building, legitimisation, oversight*

- *Streamlining the policies for the survival, coexistence and well-being of humanity*
- *Technological transformation of the world: trajectories and perspectives*
- *Presentation of (inter)national foresight cases*

The fourth part of the Congress will split into parallel sessions intended for presentations by the parliamentary delegations from around the world. Keeping in mind the overall purpose of the Congress, the presentations may cover almost every aspect of parliamentary futures governance, including awareness raising, consensus building and legitimisation practices, and reaching out to the exploration of specific thematic fields of the future, nation-wide long-term development visions, and parliamentary collaboration in tackling regional and global challenges.

GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONGRESS *THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD* IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AGENDA

The Global Parliamentary Congress *THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD* (Vilnius, 12-13 May 2023) is aimed at building inter-parliamentary contacts and strengthening the parliamentary reflection on matters of the future. The Congress will focus on three overlapping topics, namely geopolitical transformation, the future of democracy, and tackling the world's major challenges, with a special emphasis on the role of parliaments in each of these global policy areas.

The parliamentary legislative agenda is generally focused on current matters, while parliaments lack both the structures and the procedures for addressing issues that go beyond the remit of sectoral committees and the horizon of legislative terms. The recent dynamic changes have increasingly reinforced the need for such structures and procedures, which has led many parliaments around the world to establish the standing committees for the future or their counterparts, including but not limited to grand committees, strategic committees, committees for sustainable development, and committees for future generations.

The Congress on *THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD* pursues to continue building the global network of parliamentary committees for the future, established in Helsinki in October 2022, and aims to connect this network with the agenda of global organisations. Therefore, the Presidents of the inter-parliamentary structures, such as the IPU and PACE, the leadership of the European Parliament, and Speakers of a number of parliaments from around the world have been invited to and participate in the Congress.

Since the publication of the Report titled *Our Common Agenda* by António Guterres in 2020, the United Nations has been preparing actively for the Summit of the Future, scheduled to take place in New York on 22-23 September 2024. A preparatory meeting of the heads of state will take place in New York on 18 September 2023. The Summit of the Future aims to renew the UN's agenda for the future, including the reform of the organisation itself. The UN has put forward the ideas of the Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations, which are closely related to the topics of and the philosophy behind the Congress in Vilnius.

The Congress on *THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD* held in Vilnius is very much in tune with the objectives of the UN's agenda for the future and can be seen as a preparatory step to help raise the profile of the UN process. According to the concept of the Congress, the UN reform is included as the subtitle of the Congress. The plenary debates, with the participation of the Future Generations Commissioners for Wales and Gibraltar, Hungary's Ombudsman for Future Generations and members of UN Youth Initiatives, are expected to cover issues of future generations. We also consider introducing certain instruments for shaping future policies. As far as our knowledge goes, the UN is interested in engaging

parliaments more actively in the consideration of the UN's agenda for the future. We consider therefore asking the Head of the UN to make an opening address at the Congress. This would highlight the global context of the topics to be discussed at the Congress and the UN's commitment to the agenda for the future and send a signal on how the world's parliaments could better contribute to the UN Summit of the Future in 2024.

Direct participation of high-level representatives of the UN or UN organisations is welcomed in all plenary debates of the Congress. We are also open for presentation of proposals on the UN's global agenda in the parallel sessions, which will be flexible enough to accommodate the priorities of the participants of the Congress.

Follow the links below for more details on the UN's agenda for the future:

[Report of the UN Secretary General](#)

[Graphic summary of the Report](#)

[Follow-up process](#)

[UN Resolution on the Summit of the Future](#)

[Summit of the Future](#)

[Pact for the Future](#)

[Declaration on Future Generations](#)

For more information on the Congress, follow the link to the webpage: www.lrs.lt/future-congress or contact us by e-mail: futurecongress@lrs.lt.

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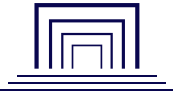
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Photo by Ilona Šilenkova, Office of the Seimas

From left to right: Giedrius VILIŪNAS (Adviser), Giedrė MICKIENĖ (Assistant), Miglė PAULAUSKĖ (Adviser), Kosma GULBINSKIENĖ (Head of Office), Ieva LAVIŠIENĖ (Adviser), Agnė GRIGIENĖ (Adviser), Arūnas AUGUSTINAITS (Adviser)