



Remarks by OSCE PA President George Tsereteli

Inter-Parliamentary Union 141st Assembly
Belgrade | 16 October 2019

Check against delivery.

I would like to thank the leadership of the IPU for this opportunity to briefly intervene on behalf of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at this special session marking 130 years of this organization.

Fellow parliamentarians,

We highly appreciate the hospitality of the Serbian authorities and the Serbian people inviting us in Belgrade to discuss how to foster greater global and local trust in democratic systems.

As we witness signs of a decline in public participation and confidence worldwide, it has become clear that we need to do more to ensure that our institutions defend the interests and protect the human rights of all our citizens.

Achieving greater democratic governance remains at the heart of the work of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. It defines our system of values.

To earn greater public support, our governments must first build effective, accountable and inclusive democratic institutions.

Our parliaments must also strengthen their oversight role to ensure that laws are enacted, administered, and enforced to benefit all.

To realize our common vision of a peaceful and rules-based world order, we generate the political will to uphold our international commitments.

Unfortunately, I remain very concerned about a renewed potential for international conflicts, a deteriorating human rights situation globally, and the breakdown of multilateralism in general.

These challenges require close collaboration between our regions, parliaments, and the international organizations we represent.

This has been my consistent message to political leaders across and beyond the OSCE: we must exploit every opportunity to maximize the potential and impact of result oriented parliamentary diplomacy. This is our collective responsibility.

It is particularly important in times when tense rhetoric and lack of compromise characterize public posturing.

Parliamentarians must continue to be a voice of de-escalation and offer creative and concrete solutions.

We must also strive to involve civil society organizations, advance gender mainstreaming and youth participation in all our countries to provide the opportunity for individuals to improve our institutions and highlight shortcomings where they exist.

It is only by upholding this core mission of parliamentarianism – governing of the people, by the people, for the people – that we can truly strengthen international law and diplomacy, achieve durable peace, protect human rights, address climate change and ensure sustainable economic development so that our children can inherit a better world.

Thank you.