



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Istanbul Declaration

Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations

*Endorsed by the 152nd IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*

We, parliamentarians from around the world, gathered at the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul, recall the shared commitment of the international community to prevent conflict, uphold human rights, and create the conditions for all people to live in peace and dignity, free from fear and want, in line with the founding principles of the IPU and the Charter of the United Nations.

We recognize that parliaments currently operate in a complex, turbulent and uncertain global environment, characterized by a multitude of destabilizing and often interlinked factors, including: an increase in armed conflicts and geopolitical tensions; serious violations of international law; geoeconomic competition; the persistent threat of radicalization, terrorism and violent extremism; and a series of challenges facing, and at times weakening, democratic institutions. Hard-won gains in making societies more inclusive, such as on women's rights, are facing renewed pushback.

In addition, the rapid development of emerging and disruptive technologies, including artificial intelligence, is fundamentally transforming societies, economies and the nature of global conflict. The misuse of these technologies is a particular concern, as is the rise in cybercrime and hybrid threats.

The situation is further compounded by the spread of misinformation and disinformation, which deepens social and political polarization, contributes to growing distrust in democratic institutions and undermines the rule of law. At the same time, widening socio-economic inequalities and a growing digital divide, persistent poverty and food insecurity, and unprecedented levels of forced displacement are contributing to a climate of uncertainty.

We are equally concerned about the accelerating impacts of climate change, growing environmental degradation and increasing pressures on natural resources and biodiversity, all of which constitute growing drivers of inequality, poverty, development disparities and livelihood challenges. These are contributing to instability and conflict and placing a disproportionate burden on young people and those in vulnerable situations, as well as on generations to come.

All these factors are fuelling heightened anxiety and disillusionment about the future, particularly among young people. Persistent youth underrepresentation in decision-making processes and insufficient efforts to address this gap are contributing to growing disenchantment. We particularly recognize that young people represent both present stakeholders and a vital link to future generations, and that their perspectives should be reflected in decision-making processes that shape long-term societal outcomes.

Amid the continued and rapid deterioration of peace and security, we are alarmed by the decline in dialogue and diplomacy as a means of resolving disputes, the growing tendency to frame peace as achievable by force, and widespread impunity that erodes accountability and fuels further instability. In many parts of the world, significant public resources are being invested in defence and broader military capabilities, including artificial intelligence and cyberspace technologies, as well as conventional and nuclear deterrence. These tendencies are leading to budget allocations which detract from spending on sustainable development and which, if not managed, can exacerbate military competition and undermine long-term stability.

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We reaffirm the central importance of democratic institutions, representative governance and respect for human rights in sustaining peaceful and just societies. Effective, participatory, accountable and transparent governance, benefitting from the contribution of a diversity of stakeholders, is essential to ensuring stability, guaranteeing justice and safeguarding human dignity.

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to multilateral cooperation as the essential foundations of global peace, stability, development and cooperation. These principles are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which remains a cornerstone of the multilateral system, and encompasses the fundamental rights of both present and future generations.

Respect for the rule of law and for international norms is more important than ever for restoring peace, safeguarding the international order, and breaking cycles of violence and conflict within and between countries. We recognize that such cycles not only affect present generations but also perpetuate intergenerational trauma and risk depriving future generations of the chance to live peacefully and in dignity.

We recognize that fragile contexts are incubators of instability and conflict, and that sustainable peace is built incrementally and requires responsible and ethical governance, resilient institutions, and tailored reconciliation and post-conflict strategies to rebuild trust among and between communities and confidence in public institutions.

We also recognize the importance of protecting the diversity of our societies, including in terms of race, ethnicity, colour, culture, language, religion, beliefs and other characteristics. We pay special tribute to the wisdom and heritage of traditional and Indigenous communities, which have informed coexistence and sustainable stewardship of resources for generations. We emphasize the importance of promoting, protecting and ensuring the rights and inclusion of persons living with disabilities as well as all people in vulnerable situations.

As parliamentarians and representatives of the people, we acknowledge that the decisions we take as legislators impact the political, social, economic, technological and environmental conditions that young people and future generations will inherit. As public figures, we play an influential role in how different challenges are expressed and addressed, and we also shape public discourse and societal values.

Building on these roles and responsibilities, we commit to fostering respectful dialogue and responsible leadership, and to strengthening the contribution of parliaments to efforts to nurture hope, secure peace and ensure justice for everyone. We parliamentarians pledge to respond to these mounting global challenges with political will and concrete action, including:

Strengthening democratic, inclusive and representative governance across generations by:

- Enhancing transparency, accountability and responsiveness in our national institutions to enhance the effectiveness of decisions, as well as to deepen public trust and democratic legitimacy. We will promote inclusive governance, including open dialogue that reflects the diversity of society and meaningful participation by citizens in public decision-making, to nurture trust in national institutions and reinforce social cohesion.
- Addressing the persistent underrepresentation of youth in legislatures and political institutions, including through the introduction of youth quotas, and recognizing the importance of empowering young people to shape the societies of today and tomorrow. We will work to implement the UN's Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda to promote peace and stability.
- Advancing gender parity in parliaments and promoting women's equal influence and leadership, including by adopting appropriate measures such as quotas. We will advance measures aimed at removing structural barriers to women's political engagement, including gender-based violence and other challenges affecting their full and effective participation. We will also actively promote the UN's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, recognizing the essential role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustainable peace, as well as the importance of ensuring accountability through WPS legislation and national action plans.

Advancing long-term and intergenerational governance approaches by:

- Strengthening parliamentary practices and budget allocations for monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data collection, to support legislators in assessing the long-term implications of laws, policies and public spending.
- Reinforcing evidence-based policymaking, strategic foresight and inclusive dialogue, to ensure that public decision-making, including on budget allocations, takes into account environmental, social and economic consequences.
- Supporting the development of institutional mechanisms, such as committees for the future, that help embed long-term thinking in public governance and ensure continuity of action beyond one electoral cycle.

Addressing structural drivers of instability by:

- Supporting policies that address the root causes of poverty, inequality, social exclusion, polarization and radicalization, recognizing that these challenges are often interlinked and undermine stability, social cohesion and trust in institutions. By tackling these structural drivers of instability, such as by prioritizing access to quality education, we will strengthen the foundations of peaceful, just and resilient societies.
- Promoting people-centred and preventive responses to insecurity, guided by the human security and common security approach, including by addressing drivers of conflict and strengthening resilience at individual, community and institutional levels, recognizing that lasting peace depends on cooperation, dialogue and mutual understanding.
- Advancing sustainable development, food security and climate resilience as essential pillars of shared prosperity, environmental protection, peace and security. This particularly includes supporting the sustainable management of natural resources and strengthening environmental protections.

Promoting responsible governance of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, by:

- Strengthening parliamentary oversight and governance frameworks to better understand their implications, maximize their benefits, and anticipate potential destabilizing effects. This includes mitigating risks, particularly those arising from the misuse of these technologies in the military domain and through digital platforms, as well as those associated with cybercrime.
- Ensuring that technological innovation is subject to effective, ethical and responsible governance. Through legislation, oversight and public debate, we will promote transparency, accountability and meaningful human control in the development and deployment of emerging technologies, in full respect of democratic values and international law, for the well-being of humanity, societies and the environment.
- Promoting international cooperation and dialogue on emerging technologies. We will work to advance shared principles, foster convergence of approaches and support the development of global common standards to ensure that technological progress contributes positively to a future in which innovation serves, and does not enslave, humanity.

Strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and international cooperation by:

- Fostering dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building between parliamentarians as a means of building trust, promoting mutual understanding and supporting joint action between States, including by sharing good practices, knowledge and lessons learned. We will endeavour to ensure the full and equal participation of women and youth in such efforts.
- Strengthening inter-parliamentary action, including through the IPU, in order to contribute to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of disputes, to help advance a spirit of cooperation and solidarity. In this regard, we will strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and mediation as important tools for addressing disputes at the national, regional and international levels.
- Supporting the consistent and effective implementation of international commitments that promote peace, sustainable development and human rights. We will make use of our oversight functions to ensure that government action upholds international humanitarian law and prioritizes the protection of civilians in armed conflict. We will advance the implementation of the UN Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations and the Sustainable Development Goals, while supporting ongoing efforts to shape the post-2030 development agenda.

As parliamentarians, we pledge to do our utmost to nurture hope in our societies and work tirelessly to secure peace and uphold justice for all. We encourage the IPU to further integrate strategic foresight into its work, in order to support parliaments in being fit for action to meet future challenges, risks, opportunities and needs, for the benefit of future generations.

We express our gratitude to the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for hosting this Assembly in Istanbul, allowing us to reflect collectively on the essential role of parliamentarians in shaping the choices that will influence our societies for many years into the future. We commit to strengthening parliamentary cooperation in support of peaceful, just and sustainable societies for all.

We pledge to take this Declaration back to our respective parliaments, share the outcome of our deliberations with our colleagues and national authorities, translate its commitments into concrete legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative actions, and sustain this effort for the well-being of generations to come.