

Dear members of the IPU,

We as people and as representatives of nations are more equal than we are different. What unites us seems to be self-evident, like the presupposition that each person has the same rights and is equally worthy of having these rights protected. However, historically speaking, these presuppositions are not as self-evident as they might seem today. Some decades ago, these ideas would have been considered as radical and subversive. It is a sign of immense mutual respect to develop something like the Declaration of Human Rights.

It is on us to emphasise and remind ourselves of these shared values.

Creating a supranational society is one of the great challenges of our time, because now the first time in the history of mankind we challenge common problems we only can solve with global common struggle – like the fight against climate change. How do we build a common market under those circumstances, or a common legality, if we do not have a common identity?

During the last decade, we happened to witness more and more awareness to solve global and game

theoretical problems on a supranational level. The European Union for example has brought many benefits due to standardization and harmonization of the law, creating an increasingly fair playing field for all of its members, which are several nations of different sizes and cultures all over Europe. At its roots of this supranational political construction lies economical competition. Just to remember what the origin of the peace project of the European Union was: It has its humble yet extraordinary beginnings with coal and steel treaties, and was then extended to economy in general, politics just followed.

The European Union can be a pattern for further supranational structures worldwide : We are observing a multitude of global problems, that need not only our attention, but our collaborative effort to solve them.

Environmental problems like the pollution of oceans, the effects of human activities on the change of global climate, the Corona Virus or the migration crisis cannot be solved by one nation alone. These must be projects tackled by all of us.

During the last decade or so, we also happened to observe a more and more radical split in thinking, concerning controversial topics. I think of the momentary conflicts with anti-vaccinationists, discussions about migration and border protection in

several regions of the world, the disruptions we have to face in the transformation of our economies because of the fight against the human component to climate change or strategies against the segregation of people in rich and poor.

As a German citizen, I have experienced a divided nation and even today I notice differences between east and west German people. Germany has gone to great lengths to overcome these divisions, yet despite over 30 years of efforts of reunification, we are not done. The problems worldwide are even bigger than the challenges of the unification of one country, so we may not expect to get easy, fast solutions for the big challenges we are facing.

The lesson I learn from this, is the great amount of patience we need, to overcome walls. Not only the physical ones, but the ones in our heads. Change is something that we cannot force overnight, not even in totalitarian countries. Parliaments in every country provide us with the suitable political instruments to balance all the conflicting interests we have to deal with. Every society needs a common narrative, common values in order to share a common identity, and a global society needs global values and a kind of common human identity, too.

Dealing with all that, we have to face a lot of conflicts. We should aim to sufficiently pay attention to the way we treat each other: Especially respecting the dignity of the fellow human being we argue with.

Finally, the most impactful solutions to global problems are to be found in strong and reliable multilateral treaties. While the protection of dignity of every human being must be at the base of our diplomacy – the outcome must be global contract compliance.

The more our economies interconnect, the more prosperous and peaceful all our nations will become.

There are people, especially on the fringes of the political spectrum, that want to tell you, the global wealth cake has a limited size and we can only talk about its distribution. This is a narrowminded view. The sheer amount of wealth and good we created over the last decades superseded all expectations. In this economical power lies the basis of the upcoming solutions for our global challenges.

It's a great achievement of brilliant men and women working together and a hallmark of the progress of our mankind as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.