

Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological changes

**Madame President,
Distinguished parliamentarians,**

The subject of our today's general debate is quite pertinent and timely.

As we all aware, the pace and breadth of technological changes are intensifying. In the year 2030, when the Sustainable Development Goals are to be met, the world will have undergone a period of deep changes with regards to the design of many day-to-day human interactions.

These transformations have created new challenges and opportunities for countries, societies and citizens.

Madame President,

Development of digital technology, e-communications and e-services, building trust and security in the use of IT, ensuring cyber security, confidentiality, privacy and personal data protection, enforcement of human rights guaranteed by advanced information society, all these strategic priorities are the basic concepts and essentials of the Digital agenda for Ukraine 2020.

Ladies and gentlemen,

According the Article 1 of the Statutes and Rules, the Inter-Parliamentary Union shall work for peace and cooperation among peoples.

And what peace and cooperation are we talking about in conditions of war and aggression on the European continent, when the Parliament of the Russian Federation legitimized the armed aggression against our country? When a number of parliamentarians in breaking international law, relevant decisions of the UNGA, OSCE, PACE, are visiting the occupied Crimean peninsula, thus supporting the wrongdoings of the Russian aggressor?

Russia's violation of the international law, illegal occupation of Crimea, destabilization of eastern Ukraine – these are only the visible

spectrums of hybrid warfare against Ukraine. Use of IT technologies for cyber-attacks, psychological pressure and information influence through propaganda and misinformation, became known as "fog of war", have been already experienced by some countries.

Cyber security is an integral part of the national security of Ukraine. Our Verkhovna Rada pays to this issue a special attention. Ukraine actively adopts the best cyber security practices for strengthening international cooperation in this area, and also interacts with competent institutions around the world on protection from cyber threats.

Especially in the circumstances of electoral processes. Today cyberthreats are more than a hype or part of the political campaign. For Ukraine, the United States, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, Bulgaria and other states, they are a real concern that has to be tackled.

One more challenge to international peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change is the aggressive irresponsible use of sophisticated lethal autonomous weapon systems, including weaponized drones. This weaponry is, in particular, actively used against Ukraine by the aggressor state – the Russian Federation. We, Ukrainians, witness it almost every day in the south east of my country, where the Russian aggressor, among other deadly weaponry, uses modern multiple launch rocket systems, which are being cynically tested on Ukrainian soil against our citizens.

Therefore, I urge Parliaments not to turn a blind eye on occurring violations, which threaten peace and development in the modern age of innovation and technological change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, indeed, are facing today a lot of challenges on our path to peace and development. I have outlined only few of them.

At the same time, there are a lot of opportunities in the age of innovation and technological changes. Only by our solidarity, our commitment, our genuine cooperation, we can make them serve for the benefit of humanity.

And our parliaments can play a crucial role in this process, making our world a safer and more convenient place to live in.

I thank you.