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National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

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General debate: »Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law«

Dear Chair,

Global education is one of the fundamental human rights, and I am pleased that the Inter-Parliamentary Union has put this issue at the heart of this assembly.

Global education certainly promotes awareness of global interdependence, solidarity and the individual's role in the world. Moreover, it has a crucial role in implementing sustainable development, while being one of the society's keys to reducing and preventing xenophobia, extremism and violence, which in recent years have come at the very forefront of international and national challenges.

Activities of global education aim at achieving a better understanding of global challenges, their cause and effect, as well as correlations between local and global dimensions. Through it, we encourage affirmative action of individuals and increase support for activities on larger scales.

Slovenia is aware of the importance of education, as it contributes to the elimination of poverty and inequality, and therefore pays particular attention to this issue.

Thus, Slovenia included global education in the Resolution on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance which it adopted in 2017 and which is implemented, in particular, as part of NGO projects funded by and implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I would especially like to highlight the activities Slovenia is undertaking in the area of education on the rights of the child. Slovenian experts have developed a teaching tool »Our Rights« which has been offered to many countries worldwide. Since 2005, more than 200.000 children from 26 countries – numerous European countries, Caucasus, Russian Federation, Middle East, Latin America and India – have been involved in this low-cost project, which is meant for universal use. The project is still being used in Kosovo and Egypt.

Slovenia is also an active member of a group of countries called the Platform for Human Rights Education. This Platform was active in the preparation of the Declaration for Human Rights Education and Training in 2011 and continues to be very active in the process of preparing the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolutions on the same topic.

Another important document I would like to mention here is the 2nd National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security for the period 2018 – 2020, which Slovenia adopted last year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Advocating culture of peace and dialogue, together with the respect of human rights and international law, is at the core of Slovenia's foreign policy activities. In the last years, we were focused on promoting mediation in the Mediterranean region, in particular highlighting the role that women and young people can play in the peace and reconciliation processes.

The promotion of culture of dialogue, in particular among young people, is an important way of establishing inter-ethnic and intercultural tolerance, thus contributing to the building of lasting and sustaining peace in post-conflict areas through education.

The inter-parliamentary union, as the largest global parliamentary organization, therefore has an important role to play in this process, as it offers the opportunity of collective involvement and a common insight into possible approaches to the challenges of the future. It is, however, on us, the parliamentarians, to make the most of this opportunity.

Thank you!