

**Introductory remarks by Senator Andrea Caroni,  
co-rapporteur of the resolution on “Sustaining Peace as a vehicle for achieving  
sustainable development”**

*25 March 2018*

Madam Chair, dear colleagues

I **thank you** all for your vast interest in our draft resolution on sustaining peace and I am looking very much forward to being part in this process together with all of you.

In April 2016, the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council adopted two substantially identical **resolutions on Sustaining Peace**. Since then the focus of the UN is increasingly **shifting** from the question of how to deal with violent conflict to the question of **how to strengthen peace** within societies.

In the initial UN resolutions, “**Sustaining Peace**” is **defined** as “*a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account.*” The notion encompasses **activities before, during and after conflict, with a strong focus on its prevention**— unlike the classical concept of **peacebuilding** with its focus on post-conflict contexts.

The concept of “Sustaining Peace” is furthermore characterized by its **comprehensive, coherent, inclusive** and **long-term** approach. Needless to say these visions of society will and shall vary from country to country, which makes **national ownership** primordial.

At the same time, the adoption of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) in 2015 shows that there is some common ground among Member States and that there are key elements of these visions which are broadly, if not universally shared.

As the title of our resolution shows, we think that **Sustaining Peace can help us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals** and their vision of economically and ecologically sustainable, fair, peaceful and inclusive societies - and the other way round.

Our resolution therefore highlights the **link between Sustaining Peace and SDGs**. There is no sustaining peace without sustainable development, and vice versa.

Implementing the SDGs and the concept of Sustaining Peace is first and foremost a **national responsibility**. As co-rapporteurs, we are therefore convinced that both concepts cannot be implemented without a **meaningful involvement of parliaments** and that it is high time to discuss among ourselves the role of parliaments in the implementation process.

The proposed IPU resolution offers an opportunity to express the commitment of parliaments and outline their contribution to the implementation of the concept of Sustaining Peace.

In the **upcoming debate**, five key points seem particularly important to me:

- (1) The resolution builds on the work within the **UN**, but puts Sustaining Peace into the context of previous and ongoing engagement of the **IPU**. The resolution aims at reflecting an ongoing paradigm shift in the UN and thereby indicates new avenues for cooperation between the IPU and the UN.
- (2) The resolution is intrinsically related to the purposes of the UN Charter (“maintenance of international peace and security”) and the **Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union** which specifies that our purpose is - inter alia - “working for peace and cooperation among peoples”.
- (3) The resolution defines a number of **concrete measures through which Member Parliaments** can help to implement the concept of Sustaining Peace as a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- (4) The **focus of the resolution is peace, not war**. Therefore our resolution outlines some ways to contribute to sustaining peace and to strengthening the resilience of societies, while it remains **relatively silent on classical security instruments** such as peacekeeping operations and counter-terrorism.
- (5) The notion of Sustaining Peace is large and comprehensive. It can easily be linked to many problems, multilateral concepts and ideas. Nevertheless: If we want to achieve an outcome in the short time period that we have, we must **refrain from overloading** the resolution, but rather keep it close to its core purpose and language.

This said, I am very much looking forward to our cooperation in the upcoming debate.