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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker Anglu Farrugia addresses the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Speaker Anglu Farrugia participated in the general debate and addressed the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on Sunday, 12 March. The general debate focused on addressing intolerance aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies. In his opening remarks, the Speaker stated that keeping peace and promoting peaceful coexistence is a continuous and universal process. It is crucial to transform words into action and be open to different beliefs and creeds. Speaker Farrugia emphasised that tolerance and peace necessitate a reciprocal approach and the participation by everyone.

Speaker Farrugia opined that parliaments have an important role in promoting peace as they are the institutions that enact legislation and are in direct contact with their respective constituency. He also referred to Malta's vocation as a neutral state and as a promoter of peace, recalling the island's important role at the meeting of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1975 in Helsinki, and recently by hosting the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace in Malta.

Speaker Farrugia referred to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in March 2020 on the Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the respect for international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity. He stressed that parliamentarians need to seek tangible results through the work of the Task Force established as a result of that resolution.

The 146th Assembly is being held in Manama between 11-15 March. The Assembly is expected to conclude with the adoption of an outcome document on the overall theme of the general debate. MPs Randolph Debattista and Robert Cutajar are also part of the Maltese Parliament at this Assembly.