



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 130

### Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

#### **Letter dated 6 July 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarism (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 130.

*(Signed)* V. Nebenzia



**Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarism**

On the eve of the International Day of Parliamentarism, celebrated annually on 30 June in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/278](#) adopted on 22 May 2018, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation appeals to the parliaments of foreign States for joint action to preserve peace and mutual understanding between peoples and to find balanced solutions to the most complex problems facing the world community.

It is regrettable to note that the principle of cooperation is not currently a priority for all actors in international relations. The politically motivated illegitimate measures being taken today by some foreign States to exert economic and diplomatic pressure on other States pursuing independent foreign and domestic policies, the unilateral withdrawal from international treaties on arms control and confidence-building measures, and the constant attempts to intervene by force in the internal affairs of sovereign States – none of this has led not to democracy, but rather to coups, armed conflicts and massive violations of human rights on ethnic, ideological and political grounds. This flouting of the fundamental principles and norms of international law threatens the very possibility of a productive inter-State dialogue, including with the participation of parliamentarians. At the same time, the sanctions being applied by the collective West to those who go against its will are eroding the global community's efforts to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In such circumstances, prohibitions and blockades of various kinds are no longer simply an obstacle to the development of sovereign nations but pose a direct threat to the lives of millions of people.

The senators of the Russian Federation consider it unacceptable to impose illegitimate sanctions against parliamentarians and restrict their activities at the international level for short-term political ends. Such decisions are destructive, do not contribute to the development of good neighbourly relations between peoples and violate voters' rights. The originators of such approaches are placing their States outside the civilized world and democratic society, one of the foundations of which is parliamentarianism.

The potential of parliamentary diplomacy should be extensively harnessed to address pressing international issues, as it is often parliaments that have the means to create the condition for contact between States, even when their relations are in crisis. As modern parliamentarism is an essential tool of both inter-State and public diplomacy, it can help to establish direct links between the elected representatives of different countries and, consequently, between the voters they represent.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation advocates strengthening the synergies between national parliaments and assisting in the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop parliamentarism, democracy and human rights. It notes the importance of coordinating lawmakers' activities within such authoritative international parliamentary organizations as the Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation reaffirms its commitment to equitable and constructive dialogue with the parliaments of foreign States and considers it necessary to intensify this dialogue in order to resolve the most pressing problems, in particular so as to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic as swiftly as possible.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation invites the parliaments of foreign States to participate in the World Conference on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue to be held in the Russian Federation by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in May 2022, supported by the United Nations.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation congratulates its colleagues on the International Day of Parliamentarianism and calls upon the parliaments of foreign States to expand their cooperation with a view to jointly ensuring sustainable global development on the basis of mutual respect, tolerance and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

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