

Parliamentary diplomacy: building bridges for peace and understanding

- What is the meaning of the term "parliamentary diplomacy"?
- Is it just about going abroad, voting on resolutions that say there should be world peace, and then congratulating each other on a job well done?
- Or is it more than that? Should it be more than that? Actual talking to each other, listening to other's opinions, and trying to find a common ground? Are we succeeding in that?
- We had some evidence to the contrary in this room two days ago. And while we were fighting and shouting at each other, there was one delegation profoundly enjoying it.
- They were enjoying this because our behavior prevented anyone from mentioning the illegal, brutal, and genocidal war they are waging in Ukraine.
- Should we be playing in a Russian theatre?
- I remember when we were discussing the emergency item on Ukraine in Kigali two years ago. I appreciate how many delegations from Africa, South America, and others were listening and trying to understand our, Central and Eastern European point of view.
- And it worked. We have found the common ground. We were able to stand firmly on the ground of our values. Let's get back to that. That's what our voters expect from us.