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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker of the House of Representatives participates in the Preparatory Committee Meeting ahead of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

On 16 and 17 May, Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia participated in the Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

The hybrid meeting, which was held in Geneva and online, brought together a number of Speakers of Parliament from around the world to prepare for the upcoming World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. Chaired by IPU President Dr Tulia Ackson, the Preparatory Committee discussed a number of issues, including the future of multilateralism, democracy and human rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Parliamentary action to address existentialist threats.

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addressed the meeting a number of times, addressing the issue of multilateralism and the importance of collective efforts which should be the main thrust for the international community to cooperate on matters of common interest. He also spoke of different conflicts around the world and made particular reference to the need to review the procedure of the United Nations Security Council, saying that some countries are choosing to block agreed-upon actions and making it seem like international law can be observed only when it fits their purpose. He reiterated the need to reform the way that the Security Council works to ensure its effectiveness and his overall sentiment was echoed by the Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr Courtenay Rattray, by Mr Michael Moller, Former Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, and a number of other Speakers.

In preparation for the next World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, a number of topics were proposed for the agenda, with Speaker Farrugia putting forward ‘The Future of Multilateralism and the urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council’ as an important issue for discussion. This topic should also look at the disrespect and breaches of principles of international law by certain countries. In order to do this, Speaker Farrugia suggested having access to the recent resolutions which were presented and blocked, particularly those related to the conflict, ceasefire and humanitarian process in Gaza.

The Speaker reiterated that the next Speakers’ conference should be an opportunity to discuss what should be done differently and how Parliaments should adapt to become more effective and hold the Executive accountable.