



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians (GCWP)

Advancing Parity: Breaking the Barriers of
Gender Stereotypes and Negative Social Norms

2 - 4 June 2026 Belgrade, Serbia



Speaker's opening statement



Ana Brnabić
National Assembly Speaker

Parliaments are the cornerstone of democratic order- institutions in which the voice of citizens is shaped and the rule of law upheld. In contemporary circumstances, parliamentary diplomacy emerges as their natural extension by placing dialogue, cooperation and exchange at the heart of international relations.

At a time of complex global challenges, parliaments and parliamentary diplomacy bear a particular responsibility to build trust, foster understanding and help sustain stability through open and inclusive dialogue.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the world's oldest and most comprehensive inter-parliamentary organisation, provides a unique platform for such exchange.

This year, as the Republic of Serbia marks 135 years of membership in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, it is our distinct honour to host the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians.

By organising this conference, Serbia reaffirms its commitment to active participation in global dialogue and its readiness, as a reliable and responsible partner, to contribute to issues of shared importance.

This conference offers a valuable opportunity to shed light on the challenges that women continue to face in political life, while also enabling us to jointly identify practical solutions that lead towards a more equitable and inclusive society.

Enhancing women's participation in political life is not only a matter of equality, but also a prerequisite for more effective, responsible and sustainable decision-making that directly influences the development of our societies.

In this context, advancing gender equality and institutional inclusiveness remains a key element of broader reform efforts aimed at strengthening democratic standards and the rule of law.

Belgrade has previously served as a meeting place for parliamentarians from across the world. Our city, as a host of the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2019, brought together more than 150 delegations and reaffirmed its role as a hub for dialogue and cooperation.

Today, by building on this tradition, Serbia further strengthens its position as a reliable partner and a place where, through the exchange of experience and best practice, solutions of relevance to the wider international community take shape.

Through its mechanisms, including the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, the Inter-Parliamentary Union plays a significant role in enhancing the visibility of women in politics and strengthening their participation in decision-making.

By introducing electoral quotas requiring at least 40% representation of women on electoral lists, the Republic of Serbia has taken a significant step forward in advancing women's political participation,

alongside the continuous development of policies and mechanisms that promote gender equality.

At the same time, we remain committed to developing institutional and strategic frameworks that support building an inclusive, stable and secure society.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia remains firmly committed to the values promoted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and will continue to consistently and actively support initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality, parliamentary cooperation and overall democratic development.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the history of its cooperation with the Republic of Serbia

1. The history of relations between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Republic of Serbia

The official cooperation between the Union and Serbia as a sovereign state and entity having international legal capacity started exactly **135 years ago** and has persisted uninterrupted until the present time under different international circumstances, which never influenced or questioned either the form or the content of this cooperation.

Already at the Third Regular Conference of the newly founded Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Rome in 1891, the Kingdom of Serbia (at the time ruled by the Obrenović Dynasty) officially participated in the IPU's proceedings as a young state, still not affirmed internationally. This gave rise to the interest of Serbia to become involved

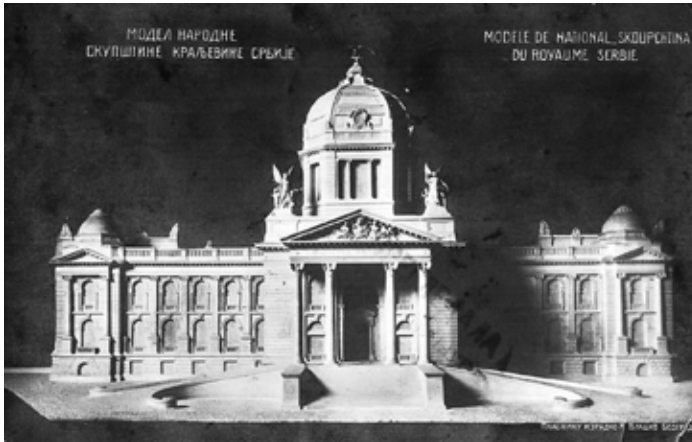
in international activities, which was driven by the converging needs for international affirmation and dispersion of foreign policy relations after the Berlin Congress and international recognition. The

Kingdom of Serbia at that time recognized the Inter-Parliamentary Union as an opportunity to achieve its statehood and national foreign policy goals and decided to get actively involved in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, thus formalising the cooperation with it. After the Great War, in 1928, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes formalised its cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union based on the continuity of relations that the Kingdom of Serbia established with the IPU in 1891. The decision was made on the basis of the Royal Government's and the Karadorđević Dynasty's assessment of the need for the state to play a more

active role at the international level, due to the state of play of relations with its neighbours and the peril of these relations changing to the detriment of the Kingdom.

Besides joining the Inter-Parliamentary Union, that same year the Kingdom of SCS acceded to the famous Kellogg–Briand Pact, which outlawed war as a means of resolving disputes and guaranteed borders, which was also supported by the Inter-Parliamentary Union as it was working along its proclaimed goals. With this approach, the Kingdom SCS joined the Inter-Parliamentary Union in a way that also supported the idea of the European Union promoted by certain political circles in Europe, headed by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aristide Briand. In this context, at the 1930 London Conference, the Inter-Parliamentary Union opened a debate on the idea of a European Union and proposed a scheme that was supported by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia but not backed by the majority, so the idea was not institutionalized. At that time, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia already supported the idea of a European Union and acted in alignment with the Inter-Parliamentary Union on this issue.





The National Assembly of the Kingdom of Serbia



The Program of the IPU Conference in Prague, 1928

In the period until World War Two, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia regularly partook in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and supported the majority efforts towards peace and disarmament, keeping in mind the overall negative development

of international relations on the one hand, and the proclaimed goals of the Union on the other.

After World War Two, the new Yugoslavia continued to participate in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as soon as it was resumed in Cairo 1947. Yugoslavia was especially active in the period before and after the creation of the Non-Alignment Movement in Belgrade in 1961, as a very influential actor in international relations globally, which impacted its relevance in the Union and its relations with the Union. This was best demonstrated at the 51st Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Brasilia in October 1962, at the time of the well-known „Cuba crisis“, when the two super-powers, the USA and the USSR, were on the brink of war. After a long debate, the Yugoslav delegate to the Union, Mladen Iveković, stated:

„I will not read my prepared speech. The war can at any moment interrupt our discussion

under the agenda. We must make a serious and unanimous effort to save peace“, after which he proposed to the Conference to send an appeal to the Governments of the USA and USSR, which was in effect done, and which yielded results already during the Conference, as Khrushchev and Kennedy, in direct communication, prevented the escalation of the crisis.

With such international leverage, Yugoslavia hosted the 52nd Annual Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Belgrade, remembered for its spirit of a renewed opening of relations between the superpowers.

The adopted documents of the Belgrade Conference reaffirmed the significance of preserving peace, safeguarding nature and exploiting resources for peace purposes, as well as continued efforts to contribute to disarmament, support development and fight discrimination.

After this, the relations continued to develop depending on the changes that Yugoslavia was facing at the end of 1980's and 1990's. The Inter-Parliamentary Union had an active approach to



The Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on Mount Avala, October 1938 (BMS)



the events taking place in the territory of former Yugoslavia and maintained contacts with its Assembly. In this respect, it kept an eye on the developments in former Yugoslavia, which was confirmed by resolutions it adopted attempting to influence the situation and support the processes in line with the goals of the organisation.

With such an approach and political position, the Inter-Parliamentary Union confirmed its commitment to the principles and the rule of international law and political impartiality,

Which remained the foundation of its approach throughout the period of conflict in the territory of former Yugoslavia during the 1990's.



The IPU 52nd Conference in Belgrade, the Central Hall



The IPU 52nd Conference in Belgrade

2. The current state of relations between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Republic of Serbia

Presently, the Republic of Serbia is a full member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. This status stems from the continuity of the Republic of Serbia's international statehood, beginning with the Kingdom of Serbia, which established these relations in 1891, followed by the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes which formalised this cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1928, then the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and afterwards the DFY, FНРY, SFRY, FRY and finally the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Together, these successive states constitutes the history of **135 years of cooperation and the non-contentious status of full member** in line with the above mentioned international legal status continuity. The status of full member of the Union, despite changes in the state and developments over the years, reflects the continuity of cooperation

and membership from the original Kingdom of Serbia to the present-day Republic of Serbia, which has never been interrupted or otherwise altered. The same applies to the period when international sanctions were imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia during the 1990s. Thus, the Inter-Parliamentary Union never questioned the status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, nor did it introduce special forms of status, as was the case with the UN and "the empty seat".

In October 2019, the Republic of Serbia hosted the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Belgrade session was held on the 130th anniversary of this oldest and largest international parliamentary organisation.

The 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2019. (Belgrade)



3. Participation of the Republic of Serbia in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia regularly participates in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its working bodies.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly participates in the work of the IPU's Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments. The National Assembly participates in the work of the IPU through its standing delegation registered with the Union.

The current composition of the National Assembly delegation fully reflects the intentions and standards of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, including, inter alia, gender equality and balanced representation, as the Serbian delegation of nine members includes five women MPs.

The National Assembly is fully committed to the goals of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as defined in its Statutes and Rules and other documents and, in this context, plans and coordinates its participation in the Union's activities. This primarily involves the promotion of peace and active international cooperation, as well as the advancement of democracy, democratic institutions, and the rule of law. In this regard, the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union—through its resolutions, activities, and adherence to international law—play a key role in guiding the work of the delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

The significance of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is manifold. Firstly, it is a parliamentary organization with 183 member states, giving it special global significance. It serves as a global forum for parliaments and parliamentarians, where discussions and decisions resonate worldwide. Secondly, the IPU has a long-standing tradition of developing cooperation and preserving peace among parliaments around the world. It is one of the oldest international organisations and the oldest parliamentary organisation promoting high values among parliaments and parliamentarians for 137 years.

Finally, it is important to highlight the significance of the issues addressed, which reflect the key challenges of our time—ranging from international peace and security, sustainable development and the fight against poverty, to global pandemics and disease, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights, as well as the status of young people, the promotion of gender equality, and raising awareness of environmental issues.

Because of this, as well as many other factors that define the IPU today, the active engagement of all Members of Parliament is needed to empower and strengthen the organization, ensuring it continues on the right path in the future.

Mladen Grujić

Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Ivana Stamatović

Member of the Bureau of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

Standing delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia in its current term:

Composition of the standing delegation of the National Assembly to the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Ana Brnabić
Head of Delegation
National Assembly Speaker



Edin Derlek
Delegation Member
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly



Mladen Grujić
Delegation Member



Dijana Radović
Delegation Member



Jelena Jerinić
Delegation Member



Ivana Stamatović
Delegation Member



Pavle Grbović
Delegation Member



Ivana Rokvić
Delegation Member



Predrag Marsenić
Delegation Member

The Inter-Parliamentary Union and its significance

1. What is the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, as an international organization, is the first-ever multilateral inter-parliamentary political and diplomatic mechanism, established as early as the 19th century under specific international circumstances. As such, it has served as a political, legal, and functional international response to the challenges of its time and continues to do so to the present day. Thus, the first definition of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, established in 1889, described it as the **“Inter-Parliamentary Conference for International Arbitration,”** reflecting from the outset its core goal and motivation: the need to promote peace and stability in international relations through the implementation of law and diplomatic cooperation mechanisms.

Currently, the Inter-Parliamentary Union can most generally be defined as **an international organisation of parliaments of sovereign states which act along generally accepted legal and organizational rules and principles of international legal order aiming to: protect and promote peace; develop broad inter-parliamentary cooperation;**

discuss relevant international current and strategically important issues; protect and promote human rights; promote and enable the development of democratic institutions and parliamentary democracy; develop dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy as a function of achieving particular and common generally accepted goals; enable closer contacts, exchange experiences and coordination among parliaments and parliamentarians in order to achieve global and individual strategic objectives, all of this based on the principles of the rule of law, democracy and democratic institutions.

Currently, in its official documents and at international gatherings, the Union is defined in a more simple and functional manner as the „first permanent inter-parliamentary forum for political multilateral negotiations and a centre of dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy among legislators representing different political systems and all political options present world-wide, thus forming a platform hosting globally present political positions“



2. The creation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



*William Randal
Cremer (1828 - 1908)*



*Frédéric Passy
(1822 - 1912)*

As a sign of contribution to peace, founders of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Frédéric Passy (1901) and William Randal Cremer (1903) were awarded the Nobel Prize.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union was created under specific international circumstances which required the establishment of a legal, political and diplomatic mechanism in order to preserve peace and cooperation as the basis for overall international relations. Namely, as early as the 18th century, competing state interests caused frequent wars aimed at preventing one power from dominating and the renewal of a European empire, which gave rise to a policy of maintaining a balance of power, which persisted until the end of the 19th century.

Part of the intellectual and political establishment of the time strived to act and become engaged in this direction, recognising the importance of peace and understanding the need to preserve it, continually supporting and maintaining it through appropriate instruments.

Such a situation during the years 1887 and 1888 preceded the establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1889, on the occasion of 100 years of the French revolution. Especially active among these structures and intellectuals were the French MP **Frédéric Passy** and the British MP **William Randal Cremer**. In France, Passy led the

French Society for Arbitration among Nations, which he merged with the "Peace through Law" society, contributing significantly to the establishment of the Institute of International Law in France at the time. Cremer was an active union leader, advocating especially for the resolution of international disputes by peaceful means and by means of law.

Thus, under such circumstances and owing to the enthusiasm of MPs Passy and Cremer, **at the Conference held on 29 June 1889 in the Paris "Continental" hotel, the Inter-Parliamentary Union was established**, with the participation of 95 MPs from France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Hungary, Denmark, the USA, and Liberia, ensuring the international foundations

of the conference and its legal and political character in keeping with international law. The Inter-Parliamentary Union was officially named by the Conference the „Parliamentary Arbitration Conference“.

In recognition of their contributions to peace, the founders of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Frédéric Passy (1901) and William Randal Cremer (1903) were awarded the Nobel Prize.

3. The role and significance of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



The key goals of the Inter-Parliamentary Union include peace, cooperation among nations and building of representative institutions, through the most comprehensive parliamentary dialogue (Article 2 of the Statutes and Rules).

The role and significance of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in contemporary international relations reflect its proclaimed goals, substantial membership, cooperation with the most significant global actors,

contribution to international law and international relations through promotion and building of democratic and legal principles and standards. This is specifically demonstrated, in line with the IPU Statutes and Rules, by the goals and objectives of its activities: **representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and human rights law, women in politics, education, science and culture.**

4. The contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to international law



The International Court of Justice in the Hague

Given that the Inter-Parliamentary Union is an organisation of parliaments vested with legislative power and that its purpose is the promotion of law, the contribution of the IPU to international law is self-evident. Below, the crucial contributions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the international legal order are presented.



a) The International Court of Justice

Founded as an Arbitration Conference, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, already at the Hague Conference in 1894, continued its efforts to affirm and institutionalise arbitration as a mechanism for dispute resolution by peaceful means by activities which led to the First Arbitration Conference at the Hague in 1899, attended by 26 countries, and the founding of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The Second Arbitration Conference was held at the Hague in 1908, at which time the Permanent Court of International Justice was founded, to which the IPU made a significant contribution. The statement by the Dutch representative Samuel van Houten at the Conference was very illustrative:

„Arbitration, arbitration, and again arbitration must now be our slogan. No need to add peace. Increase the use of arbitration in decision-making on disputes and you will win the space against the use of force.“ (from the documents of IPU, Conference 1894).

b) Declaration on criteria for free and fair elections

Unanimously adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 154th session in Paris, on 26 March 1994, this Declaration is the key document underpinning the overall strategy of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in promoting the principles of democracy and democratic institutions, and the key principle is:

„In any State the authority of the government can only derive from the will of the people as expressed in genuine, free and fair elections held at regular intervals on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage.“

This principle has continued to this day to be the universal legal and political criterion for the legality and legitimacy of any democratic government and the underlying criterion for the functioning of democracy and democratic institutions. Accordingly, the Declaration invokes international law and urges states to:

„States should take the necessary legislative steps and other measures, in accordance with their constitutional processes, to guarantee the rights and institutional framework for periodic and genuine, free and fair elections, in accordance with their obligations under international law.“

Given its universal nature and function, this principle can be regarded as a fundamental tenet of international law and the legal order, guiding the functioning of democratic institutions and serving as a benchmark for the existence of democratic states and the rule of law.

This is ensured by the Inter-Parliamentary Union's nature and global reach, the size of its membership, and the universality of its goals, both established and achieved, within the organization's long-standing political tradition.

c) The Universal Declaration on Democracy

Adopted by acclamation by the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Governing Council at its 61st session held in Cairo, on 16 September 1997, this Declaration is the basis for establishment and promotion of democracy and democratic institutions and it relies on the principles which the Inter-Parliamentary Union promotes through its goals. This is underlined in the recitals to the Declaration by the IPU's Governing Council, as the managing body of the Union: „Reaffirming the Inter-Parliamentary Union's commitment to peace and development and convinced that the strengthening of the democratisation process and representative institutions will greatly contribute to attaining this goal“.

The Declaration also states: **„Democracy is founded on the primacy of the law and the exercise of human rights.“** To completely clarify what the foundation of democracy is, the Declaration underlines:

„The key element in the exercise of democracy is the holding of free and fair elections at regular intervals enabling the people's will to be expressed.“

5. The contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to international relations



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

a) The Inter-Parliamentary Union Conferences on European Cooperation and Security (1973–1991)

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has held a total of seven Conferences on European Cooperation and Security, the proceedings of which were the basis for international and political, diplomatic, procedural and other steps, best implemented in the process of CSCE/OSCE and other similar processes in contemporary international relations. Thus, the Inter-Parliamentary Union formally opened up the process, which was subsequently verified at international level as CSCE, or OSCE, currently a pivotal transatlantic forum for issues of security and stability. To illustrate this, the proceedings of all seven conferences emphasise the relevance of implementing the principles of international law:

„Principles of sovereignty, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity and independence, and the right to equal participation in international relations;

– **The right of all nations to freely select their social and political system, without any form of interference;**

– **The obligation of all states not to use force and refrain from it, and to resolve their conflicts by peaceful means and to adequately respect obligations resulting from international law.“**

The term „**détente**“ was for the first time used in the official document of the First Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on Cooperation and Security in Europe, whereby this diplomatic term was verified at the international political level as a synonym for the process of defusing tensions in the East-West relations.

b) The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean States: **“The Assembly builds on the pioneering work carried out by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) through its process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM)“**. Namely, already at the Third Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on Cooperation and Security in Europe, in the part pertaining to economic issues, the Conference integrated the „Mediterranean dimension“.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, in organisational and functional respect, acts after the model of the IPU in the fields of activities relevant to the interests and needs of the Mediterranean member states.

6. The universal contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Among other significant contributions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to international law and international relations, the following deserve special attention:

- **creating and implementing mechanisms for parliaments acting in processes of reconciliation;**
- **activities of the Union in the processes of decolonisation (support, specific engagement and promotion of the right to self-determination);**
- **the role of the Union in developing and promoting the Millennium Declaration of the UN;**

- **contribution to the processes of transition** (in South America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall);

- **contribution to the theory and practice of parliamentary diplomacy;**

- **political and instructive contribution for parliamentary oversight of the security sector.**



President of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union
Tulia Ackson



Secretary General of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union
Martin Chungon



Country	City	Population	Area	Capital	Language	Religion	Government
USA	Washington D.C.	331,000,000	9,833,517 km ²	Washington D.C.	English	Protestantism	Presidential
Canada	Ottawa	38,000,000	9,984,670 km ²	Ottawa	English/French	Protestantism	Parliamentary
UK	London	63,000,000	244,820 km ²	London	English	Protestantism	Parliamentary
France	Paris	67,000,000	643,801 km ²	Paris	French	Catholicism	Parliamentary
Germany	Berlin	82,000,000	357,021 km ²	Berlin	German	Catholicism	Parliamentary
Italy	Rome	60,000,000	301,340 km ²	Rome	Italian	Catholicism	Parliamentary
Spain	Madrid	46,000,000	505,992 km ²	Madrid	Spanish	Catholicism	Parliamentary
Japan	Tokyo	127,000,000	377,975 km ²	Tokyo	Japanese	Buddhism	Constitutional
China	Beijing	1,400,000,000	9,600,000 km ²	Beijing	Chinese	Buddhism	One-party
India	New Delhi	1,200,000,000	3,287,263 km ²	New Delhi	Hindi	Hinduism	Parliamentary
Australia	Canberra	22,000,000	7,692,024 km ²	Canberra	English	Protestantism	Parliamentary
South Africa	Cape Town	55,000,000	1,221,037 km ²	Cape Town	Afrikaans	Christianity	Parliamentary
Brazil	Brazilia	207,000,000	8,511,965 km ²	Brazilia	Portuguese	Catholicism	Presidential
Argentina	Buenos Aires	43,000,000	2,780,167 km ²	Buenos Aires	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Chile	Santiago	18,000,000	756,102 km ²	Santiago	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Colombia	Bogota	47,000,000	1,141,748 km ²	Bogota	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Venezuela	Caracas	28,000,000	916,445 km ²	Caracas	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Peru	Lima	32,000,000	1,285,216 km ²	Lima	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Ecuador	Quito	17,000,000	283,561 km ²	Quito	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Bolivia	Sucre	11,000,000	1,098,581 km ²	Sucre	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Paraguay	Asuncion	7,000,000	406,752 km ²	Asuncion	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Uruguay	Montevideo	3,500,000	176,215 km ²	Montevideo	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Costa Rica	San Jose	5,000,000	51,067 km ²	San Jose	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Panama	Panama	4,000,000	75,517 km ²	Panama	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Dominican Republic	Santiago	10,000,000	74,621 km ²	Santiago	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Honduras	Tegucigalpa	7,000,000	112,492 km ²	Tegucigalpa	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Nicaragua	Managua	5,000,000	130,373 km ²	Managua	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Cuba	Havana	11,000,000	110,861 km ²	Havana	Spanish	Catholicism	One-party
Haiti	Port-au-Prince	10,000,000	77,816 km ²	Port-au-Prince	French	Catholicism	Presidential
Dominican Republic	Santiago	10,000,000	74,621 km ²	Santiago	Spanish	Catholicism	Presidential
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	1,300,000	513,000 km ²	Port of Spain	English	Christianity	Parliamentary
Jamaica	Kingston	2,800,000	10,991 km ²	Kingston	English	Christianity	Parliamentary
Bahamas	Nassau	400,000	13,940 km ²	Nassau	English	Christianity	Parliamentary
Barbados	Bridgetown	280,000	430 km ²	Bridgetown	English	Christianity	Parliamentary
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	1,300,000	513,000 km ²	Port of Spain	English	Christianity	Parliamentary

The 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2019.(Belgrade)





Sava Center



Sava Center is the largest congress, cultural, and business centre in Southeast Europe and one of the most recognizable landmarks of contemporary architecture in Belgrade.

Covering 100,000 m², it holds a distinctive place among European venues by uniting congress, business, and cultural experiences within a single space, designed to inspire and connect.

This architectural gem, designed by Stojan Maksimović, was opened in 1977 and nominated for the prestigious Pritzker Prize, the world's most significant recognition in the field of architecture.

In 2020, Sava Center became part of the Delta Holding portfolio and subsequently underwent a transformation into a modern, multifunctional

complex with several functional units, including the renowned Blue Hall, a concert venue with a seating capacity of 4,050. The Blue Hall holds a special place in the cultural life of the city, hosting performances by some of the most prominent international and regional artists and musicians.

Situated in the heart of New Belgrade's business district, and in close proximity to leading hotels and major transport connections, Sava Center features 46 halls of varying capacities, making it well suited for hosting a wide range of events. From intimate business meetings, seminars, and conferences to gala dinners and large congresses with several thousand participants, Sava Center provides an ideal setting for events of every scale.



Hotels



Crowne plaza

10 Vladimira Popovica Street
11070 Belgrade, Serbia
Reservations: 1866 227 6963
Front desk: + 381-11-2204004



Hyatt

5 Milentija Popovica Street
11070 Belgrade, Serbia
Reservations: 1866 227 6963
Front desk: + 381-11-2204004



Mercure Belgrade Excelsior

Mercure Belgrade Excelsior 4*
Kneza Miloša 5,
Belgrade 11000,
Serbia





IN Hotel Beograd

56 Arsenija Černojevića Blvd
11070 Belgrade
+ 381 11 310 53 00



Nobel West

168a Tošin Bunar Street, Belgrade, Serbia
INFO & RESERVATIONS
+ 381668091909



ZiJin

10K Mihajla Pupina Blvd,
11070 Belgrade, Serbia



One-day tours after the conference

Visit to Belgrade Museums

1. National Museum

Discover the National Museum of Serbia and its newly curated permanent exhibition, offering a journey through the prehistoric, medieval and modern heritage of Serbia, Europe and the world. A two-hour guided tour reveals the museum's most important works of art and treasured artefacts, bringing Serbia's rich history to life.

2. Nikola Tesla Museum

A guided tour of the Nikola Tesla Museum offers a fascinating insight into the world of Nikola Tesla, one of history's greatest minds. Through a carefully curated blend of modern technology and authentic exhibits, visitors can trace his evolution as a visionary inventor and as a remarkable individual. Expert guides bring his story to life through fascinating insights, working models of his inventions, and a display of personal items and original artefacts.

3. Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade

The museum exhibits the most relevant artists, periods, movements and tendencies in Yugoslav, Serbian and international art of the 20th century. Guided by contemporary museological principles of cultural heritage conservation and display practices, the museum's diverse cultural activities and collaborations establish it as an important contributor to the cultural and artistic life of Belgrade and Serbia.

4. Ethnographic Museum of Belgrade

Since its establishment in the 1950s, the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade has been devoted to collecting, preserving and interpreting the cultural heritage and ethno-genetic processes of Serbia and the wider region. Its collections explore traditional material culture, social relations and family life, customs, beliefs and folklore. Visitors are invited to discover the unique characteristics of Serbian culture alongside those of other ethnic communities in the region, experiencing the vibrant diversity of life across Serbia and the Balkans.

5. Museum of Ivo Andrić

Founded in 1976, The Memorial Museum of Ivo Andrić is located at Andrićev venac 8, the residence where the writer lived with his wife, Milica Babić, from 1958. The authentic interiors of the entrance hall, drawing room and Andrić's study have been carefully preserved. Within this adapted setting, a permanent exhibition traces the life and work of the Nobel Prize laureate in chronological order.



Belgrade City Walking Tour

Discover the rich history and vibrant spirit of Belgrade on a guided walking tour through its historic centre, including the iconic Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Park.

Stroll through Kalemegdan Park as the story of Belgrade's transformation into a modern European capital unfolds, from its ancient origins to the present day.

Enter the fortress through its historic gates and explore key landmarks, including the open-air exhibition of the Military Museum Belgrade, the Clock Tower and numerous historic monuments. Inside the Barutana, once a gunpowder magazine, discover the layers of the city's past.

From the plateau surrounding the Victor Monument, enjoy breathtaking views over the meeting point of the Sava River and the Danube, where the city reveals itself in all its splendour.

The experience is complemented by a visit to the charming historic quarter of Kosančićev Venac.

City Tour by Coach

Belgrade is set on elevated ground above the confluence of the Sava River and the Danube. In 1403, during the reign of Stefan Lazarević, the city became the capital of Serbia—a status it has retained to this day. Belgrade is also one of the two cities, alongside Constantinople, dedicated to the Mother of God.

This panoramic coach tour takes you through New Belgrade, past the impressive Palace of Serbia and Belgrade Arena, and into the elegant district of Dedinje.

A visit to the House of Flowers, part of the Museum of Yugoslav History, offers insight into the country's recent past (approx. 30 minutes).

Continuing through the city, you will see the monumental Temple of Saint Sava, Slavija Square, the lively Boulevard of King Alexander and St Mark's Church, along with key civic landmarks including the National Assembly, City Assembly, Terazije and Republic Square.

The tour concludes with views of Kalemegdan Park and the Belgrade Fortress, before passing along Karađorđeva Street and ending near the Crowne Plaza Belgrade.

Significant landmarks

- National Assembly
- City Assembly
- House of Flowers within the Yugoslav History Museum
- St. Sava Temple
- Gardoš Tower
- Skadarlija

Belgrade Sightseeing Cruise on the Danube and Sava Rivers

A sightseeing cruise offers one of the most enjoyable ways to experience Belgrade's rich history and cultural heritage. Enjoy a scenic journey along the river from Zemun to New Belgrade and the popular river island of Ada Ciganlija.



National Assembly

View from Kalemegdan



Eastern Serbia: Along the Danube – Golubac Fortress & Iron Gate Gorge



Travel along the Danube from Belgrade to the Iron Gates to see the area's most famous sights, accompanied by live, professional guidance and in an air-conditioned vehicle. You will visit the famous Golubac Fortress and learn about its turbulent history. Golubac Fortress is a medieval stronghold located on the banks of the Danube River, near the entrance to the Iron Gates Gorge. Built in the 14th century, it played a crucial role in defending the region against invasions. The fortress features impressive towers, walls, and a strategic position offering stunning views of the river and surrounding landscapes. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction, showcasing the rich history and beauty of Serbia's past.

You will also experience the stunning beauty of Europe's longest composite valley. Additionally,

you will enjoy a boat ride through the Iron Gates, one of Europe's most dramatic natural wonders, which separates the Carpathian Mountains from the Balkan Mountains.

You will have the opportunity to experience the unique atmosphere of Eastern Serbia and savour the region's traditional products.

Departure to Silver Lake. Lunch.

Silver Lake is a popular recreational destination in Eastern Serbia, known for its calm waters and picturesque surroundings. The area is ideal for relaxation, enjoying nature, and sampling local cuisine. Free time for a walk before departure to Belgrade. Arrival at the hotel in the evening hours.

PROUD HOST OF EXPO 2027

Belgrade, Serbia

Belgrade and Serbia will host the Specialised Exhibition Expo 2027, which will be held from 15 May to 15 August 2027. During the three months of the Expo, Belgrade will become a global hub for the exchange of ideas, technologies, and cultures.



THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

And Serbia's Participation

International exhibitions are global events that bring the world together in a shared endeavour to find solutions to the challenges facing humanity. They provide a platform for showcasing new ideas, inventions and innovations across science and technology, as well as in art, gastronomy and sport.



MEET OUR SUPERHEROES OF PLAY

One of the defining symbols of Expo 2027 are its **official mascots** – a boy and a girl embodying the blend of Serbia's tradition and its modern spirit. Named **Rastko and Milica** through a public vote, they stand as a symbol of shared creativity behind this landmark event.



IMPACT ON HOST CITIES

Economy, Development and Legacy

International exhibitions have a profound impact on the development of host cities, enhancing infrastructure, mobility and public spaces, and raising the overall quality of life for residents. Hosting major events such as an Expo attracts investment, international companies and tourists, strengthening the global reputation of the host city.





Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
5, chemin du Pommier
Case postale 330
CH-1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva
Switzerland



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

National Assembly of the
Republic of Serbia
13 Nikola Pasic Square
11000 Belgrade
telephone: +381 (11) 3026 100
e-mail: nsrs@parlament.rs