

**BUNDESVORSTAND**

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Dear participants of the Model UN Parliament,

for three days, you will have the great opportunity to live the idea of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) – an idea which I have supported from the beginning. As national delegates, you will experience what it means to represent citizen's voices, and how important this is for our common future.

The United Nations has been the global and crucial voice for peace, human rights, justice and environmental protection since its founding. At the same time, the UN faces limitations when member state governments do not represent the interests of their citizens. This is why the creation of the UNPA is so relevant for us – to give voice to every citizen, woman and man, all over the world; to create legitimacy by true representation, and to enhance political responsibility of the states' leaders. By doing so, UNPA will make an important contribution to integration and political participation in every UN member state.

The challenges we are facing nowadays are truly global ones, and accordingly require global solutions. Whether we look at worldwide migration movements, wars and conflicts, social injustice and poverty, or the climate change: the answer cannot be given by single states. Instead, we must work on common solutions, including all parts of the societies, and in particular the voice of young people, woman, and minorities.

Through all the struggles we must not lose our core human values out of sight: Migration movements do not justify racism and discrimination; conflicts do not justify religious intolerance and hate. *Liberté, égalité, fraternité* are the values we have embraced since the French Revolution, and which have to guide us now more than ever. Your task for the following days, as it is the task of all of us, will be to collectively build peace and democracy, secure equality and human rights, promote tolerance and freedom and protect our climate and planet.

I wish all participants of the Model UN Parliament an inspiring and enriching experience, and all the best for their path of life.



Cem Özdemir