

43rd Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Diana's intervention in cooperation debate

Mr president, honourable members, it is my great honour to address you today as a former youth delegate from Georgia, now working for the Congress cooperation project in my country to strengthen human rights at local level.

We heard inspiring stories from our esteemed speakers on the progress achieved in their respective countries and cities. Local governments, with a political leadership accountable to citizens, are key players in guaranteeing and promoting human rights. The Congress is an important partner in this regard, as it facilitates cooperation and successfully builds synergies through its presence in the field. Indeed, being engaged at the grassroots level we can support and already see gradual positive changes in human rights protection, open local government, and citizen participation.

Honourable members, coming from the field office, I see the great added value of the peer dialogue the Congress promotes. Cooperation efforts by the Congress are unique as they pool together the best practices of our member states and translate them into practical tools. I encourage you to follow the cooperation activities closely because they provide excellent opportunities, especially for youth engagement.

Mr president, here I would like to mention the importance of the Congress initiative to rejuvenate politics and particularly youth delegates program. Yesterday as I listened to your exciting stories dear youth delegates about the grass-roots projects that you have implemented in your communities, it reminded me how inspiring it was to be a youth delegate and how it helped me to grow as a professional. The training and practical experience you get as youth delegates can help you achieve your goals and realise your aspirations. Today, I am truly honoured to have the opportunity to put my experience in action and contribute to the Congress cooperation activities.

Dear youth delegates, I congratulate and thank you for your efforts to advance the Council of Europe's values that we all hold dear.

Mr president, I would like to take this opportunity and extend my appreciation for the extensive work the Congress is committed to. And I do look forward to hearing from the honourable members on their perspectives on the cooperation activities. Thank you!