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**“Policy of Development, a State and World Order”**

**IPSA Presidential Address**

**Marianne Kneuer**

I am delighted that I can take this opportunity to expose some of IPSA's goals and ideas for the near future. The special feature of IPSA is that our organization reflects a global anchoring in the scholarship across all continents. In fact, one of the most inspiring and meaningful missions of IPSA for me is this global mission and the inclusion of all regions. For me, the Global South mission of IPSA is a centerpiece for the next few years. In the last years, important first steps in this direction have been taken by developing closer contacts with the Latin American and the African communities. But not only these regions are in the focus, on the contrary.

I am glad that at this conference I can address not only the Russian community, but also a lot of colleagues from other Eastern European countries, the Caucasus and Central Asia. My conviction is that we need more regional networks that can additionally inspire our global community. Your conference brings together a whole range of different communities, some quite established, like the Russian one, and some younger, but very much thriving.

From my encounters in the Global South, I learned that often scholars perceive IPSA as distant. I take this as an encouragement for IPSA to be more present and visible for our members. Moreover, wherever we can, we should continue strengthening the regional networks and the nexus between the regions and IPSA.

And finally, IPSA also needs to reach out for those regions where political science is still in development and where IPSA does not yet have so much representation as in the Middle East and Northern Africa. IPSA is a thriving organization, but we have to continue our efforts to include more members. There are still some regions where only few national associations had been established so far or where structures still need institutionalization. IPSA encourages and extends support for establishing new associations in the regions.

So, again, one of my central goals is to make IPSA's global and inclusive mission more visible.

Other goals, dear colleagues, refer to those challenges we find within or outside our scientific community. And I think we all agree that there are some external challenges. I refer to general challenges that IPSA faces, as do other organizations:

issues of academic freedom, measures regarding gender and diversity, norms and procedures concerning ethical conduct.

### ***Academic freedom***

Academic freedom by far is not a new problem, but the challenge for our community has increased in recent years, and not only in authoritarian, also in some democratic countries. Moreover, the methods of limiting academic freedoms and the freedom of speech have become somewhat subtler. In 2016, IPSA created an Ad-hoc Committee on Academic Freedom that I transformed into a permanent committee overseeing the issue, offering support for colleagues. IPSA is glad that, from the beginning, our Russian colleague is a member in this Committee of Academic Freedom.

What we found in our work in the Committee on Academic Freedom is mainly a lack of information, a lack of overseeing the multiple forms of violation. In order to get a better and more comprehensive picture of these problems, IPSA is taking up an exchange with other organizations on the issue of academic freedom. IPSA strives for ways for cooperating more closely with international and regional organizations that are confronted with the same problems and we aim to build networks in order to exchange, to bundle efforts and be more efficient jointly. But likewise, our national associations are confronted with problems of academic freedom, even more and concretely – sometimes not only individual members, but also the association as a whole, for example when governments impede the founding or the existence of political science associations. Thus, what we will realize is a survey within all of our members organizations on their experiences, their concrete problems and their practices dealing with violations of academic freedom. The IPSA Committee on Academic Freedom is already elaborating a questionnaire so that we hopefully can start our survey in the coming year. We would very much appreciate the collaboration of the Russian Association.

### ***Gender and diversity***

IPSA's global and inclusive mission cannot be separated from the objective to ensure balanced representation, not only in terms of geographical region, but also of gender and insufficiently represented scholars. IPSA, up to now, has conducted and published Gender Monitoring Reports on a regular basis (every two to four years). But we should develop additional measures regarding gender balance and diversity issues. For the first time in IPSA history, therefore, I set up the new post of a Special Representative for Gender and Diversity.

### ***Ethical conduct***

Other challenges facing the academic community derive from ethical misconduct and other ethical problems emerging in our professional life. Again, this is not a new phenomenon, but an issue with increasing relevance and also with new forms. This development requires codes, as well as complaint-redress procedures and

implementation bodies. IPSA will tackle with determination these problem areas on the basis of a well-coordinated approach. A newly created function as Special Representative for Ethics will steer this process, in which the Research Committees should be involved.

Additionally, there appear new ethical questions, like for example in the context of digitalization, not only for teaching, but also for our professional life; f.e. in terms of predatory publishers, predatory conferences or other practices in editing, which especially are problematic for younger scholars.

The scope of the topics like academic freedom, diversity and ethical conduct necessitate cooperation and coordination with other international organizations and their pertinent organs and our members. I therefore would like to encourage you to contribute to these new initiatives of IPSA; we welcome your thoughts on this.

Talking about challenges, there are indeed more.

One keyword is post-truth or post-factual politics, a context in which we are obviously emerged. What does post-factual politics mean for scientists in general and for our discipline? How can we exert teaching if students influenced by post-factual politics would question basic assumptions? How can we continue to present scientific evidence if there is a discursive hegemony casting doubts on certain issues or even the whole scientific world? How can we achieve transfer of scientific findings and results of our studies if politicians or the public is biased and polarized in a way that exchange and communication are getting hampered or even distorted and impossible? Do we have measures to react on the post-factual climate? And which ones?

Post-factual politics are very much related to another topic that is crucial for our discipline, namely digitalization. Of course, neither propaganda nor the manipulation of information is something new. Scholars of political science know about this phenomenon. New aspects are the dissemination of manipulated information via social media with all the inherent potential including bots and other means. Unprecedented is also the acceleration of the flow of information or of manipulated information. Furthermore, as scientists, we are quite aware that data are of utmost importance for scholarly analysis. Digital communication and data distribution pose additional challenges to scholarly work if we cannot be sure about the trustworthiness of the data and the information. At the same time, proper handling of data is a task of scholarly work and we are responsible for this proper handling. This is very much related to the issue of ethics of our discipline.

Dear colleagues, next year will be the IPSA's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is a good reason to organize a special celebration of its founding and already today I want to invite the leadership of your association in joining us in celebrating this event in Paris next November. As you know, IPSA was founded by UNESCO in Paris in 1949. As a post-war product, the founding of IPSA embodied the idea of promoting mutual understanding and of establishing a dialogue between political scientists all over the

world. This farsighted and ponderous mission remains an obligation for IPSA since then. And this mission remains as relevant as 70 years ago. The founding fathers of IPSA – there were indeed no female scholars that I could name – assigned the social sciences the task of furthering friendship between peoples by promoting mutual understanding and fostering the removal of such obstacles as "nationalism, antagonisms of a technological character, insufficiency of government action, problems relating to movements of population or relations of dependency between two peoples." (UNESCO, General Conference: First session, Paris, UNESCO, December 1946).

The founding fathers of IPSA were motivated by reasserting the peace-making potential of the social sciences: the study of "tensions affecting international understanding"; the "philosophical analysis of current ideological controversies"; the "study of international collaboration"; and an enquiry into the "humanistic aspects of culture."

This may sound idealistic. But even if we have to acknowledge that our potential is limited in regard to the goal of peace making, the assigned mission for IPSA remains as relevant. In times of persisting conflicts and aggression, in times of technological change and disruption, in times of uncertainty, it is important to have the platform of IPSA where scholars find a continuous space of communication and interaction, of exchange and cooperation – independent if they come from a democratic or autocratic country, from a country where social peace is prevalent or from a country with domestic conflicts, independent if they come from a country with a government that strives to strengthen a peaceful and rule-based world order or from a country that does not.

IPSA was built to promote mutual understanding between social scientists and to help remove obstacles for this mutual understanding. If our members feel that IPSA constitutes this platform of dialogue and exchange, then we have already accomplished something.

Dear colleagues, let me invite you all to the next IPSA event for academic exchange, namely to our World Congress in 2020 which will take place in Lisbon. I very much hope to see you all in Lisbon!