



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Closing remarks by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Seventh Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

Virtual, 29 April 2021

Distinguished Parliamentarians,
Honourable Guests,

Looking at the hundreds of parliamentarians, youth representatives and partners around this “virtual table” over the past two days, I can only say - I am very encouraged.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for dedicating time and effort to reach many milestones during these two days:

This edition of the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians made the most of the virtual world. It brought together more than 400 participants from around the globe.

The Conference has also reinforced an intergenerational partnership to drive the youth empowerment agenda.

This Conference has reiterated youth empowerment as a centerpiece of our shared agenda to confront the pandemic and recover better, stronger, and more resilient from it.

This brings to light the true call of the IPU – a global organization of national parliaments in service to peace, democracy, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment and sustainable development. In the present time, when we are faced with the imperative to make a strategic choice, the IPU couldn't be more relevant for helping pave the way to a post-pandemic future that is resilient, equitable, smart, green, inclusive and fair.

I am very pleased that this Global Conference has provided you with a platform to articulate the rights and aspirations of youth with regard to education, employment, civic and political engagement, and health. Your recommendations, ideas and initiatives will feed into a strategic approach to overcome the pandemic today and build a better tomorrow.

In this context, with only several weeks away from the 142nd IPU Assembly as I said yesterday in my opening remarks, the outcome of your efforts will feed into the results of the Assembly to chart a course for parliaments amid the current recovery efforts from the pandemic.

Dear Colleagues,

I enjoin you to live up to the confidence the IPU has bestowed on you. Vested with the trust of the people and the energy of youth as agents of change, you are well positioned to reinforce the role of parliaments and demand inclusiveness, responsiveness, sustainability, and relevance.

The IPU will continue to invest significant efforts in supporting youth participation and empowering young MPs to strengthen democracies and make them more representative.

It is our hope that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians will continue to lead these efforts and bring youth voices into political processes.

By convening so many parliamentarians and stakeholders, and creating space for inter-generational dialogues, this Global Conference is another example of IPU's effort to uphold the fundamental idea that - young people are not only the future but also the present of any democracy.

Let us join forces and harness the power of our ideas to make way for a new chapter for youth empowerment, one that is at the centre of the unfolding efforts to recover approach from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you very much for being with us at the Conference.