



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the United Nations Climate  
Change Conference

Glasgow, 7 November 2021

Honourable Speakers and Members of Parliament,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The discussions that have taken place today here in Glasgow reiterate our abiding commitment to democracy and multilateralism in the long-standing spirit of the IPU.

The latest scientific report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the state of global climate is alarming. Record atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations and associated accumulated heat have propelled the planet into uncharted territory, with far-reaching repercussions for current and future generations. It is time for parliamentarians to act as responsible steward of the planet and place the wellbeing of humanity at the heart of all political ambition and activity.

Parliaments, with their core legislative, oversight, budgetary and representation functions, are key to ensuring the implementation of the outcomes of COP 26, including domestic climate commitments made through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While the Paris Agreement is an international agreement, it must be supported by strong national level-action to be effective. This meeting has shown strong commitment and a high level of awareness of the instrumental role that parliaments play in making this happen.

The outcome document we just adopted expresses our renewed commitment in the fight to climate change and once we go back to our respective countries, we need to pressure our national governments to take stronger action on climate change and to drive transformational change for a healthier planet and society.

The IPU will promote the dissemination of the outcome document at its 143rd Assembly, taking place in Madrid from 26 to 30 November and will facilitate and expand its outreach of by creating opportunities to take stock of the mobilizing role of parliaments in the fight against climate change.

The IPU remains fully committed to supporting parliaments in their efforts to tackle the climate emergency, and climate remains one of the core policy areas of the next IPU 5-year strategy. The fact that almost every IPU Assembly in the last few years produced a political outcome on climate change speaks for itself about the important place of climate among 179 IPU Member Parliaments.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Climate change is happening in front of our eyes and is the biggest threat modern humans have ever faced, with profound implications for international peace and

stability. This planetary crisis requires strong, transformational and authentic leadership.

To echo Sir David Attenborough, let us be “motivated by hope rather than fear” to avoid a climate catastrophe. Time is certainly not on our side, and we cannot rewrite the past. However, the future of this planet and of future generations is on our hands and we can lay the basis for systemic changes, to halt global warming and create the conditions for everyone to adapt to a changing environment and live in peace.

The meetings in Rome and Glasgow have provided parliaments and parliamentarians with a platform to come together to jointly discuss the challenges and opportunities in tackling the climate emergency, at the global level. I take this opportunity to thank once again the Italian Parliament and the British Group of the IPU for co-hosting these two important events and to offer you all my greatest gratitude for your support.

Thank you all for your presence and commitment, and, above all, for your actions in your respective parliaments. Addressing the climate crisis requires a concerted effort at both the national and international level. Political leadership and solidarity are needed to find new approaches in order to renew and safeguard democracy. I look forward to seeing you in Madrid at the end of the month at the 143rd IPU Assembly.