



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

Speech by Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

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Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA),
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, it is a pleasure for me to be here with you today during this 2022 IRENA Legislators Forum, which will focus on parliamentary and regulatory actions to drive national energy transition policies. I would like to begin by thanking the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) for hosting this important event during the Twelfth Session of the IRENA Assembly.

This year's Forum comes at an important time as discussions on renewable energy transitions are becoming increasingly prominent in national and international climate change dialogues. As countries work towards reaching the climate-related targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Paris Agreement, it is critical that parliaments have the opportunity to hold inclusive and constructive debates on how legislation can help guide the energy transition to ensure renewable energy policies are effectively implemented. This Legislators Forum provides the perfect opportunity for this dialogue.

As we are all aware, clean and renewable energy is a prerequisite for both sustainable development and for minimizing the devastating impacts of climate change. If we are serious about implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving the SDGs by the end of the decade, clean energy transition must occur now. Achieving this transition requires increased political will, a strong legislative framework, and a considerable shift of resources from the fossil fuel industry and other high-polluting energy sources towards renewable energy. Legislators must be at the forefront of efforts to ensure energy becomes the norm, not the exception.

Legislators must be forthcoming in using their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representation functions, position to accelerate the energy transition. As countries continue to grapple with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, resource allocations are being continually revisited in many countries. Parliamentarians can help ensure resources are directed to scale-up investments in renewable energy and to support legislation that facilitates a global energy transition.

The IPU is committed to supporting parliaments in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and tackle climate change, including through the promotion of clean energy. The IPU regularly supports bilateral, regional and international parliament-

parliament engagement to facilitate the sharing of good practices and lessons learned on addressing climate and development challenges.

Climate is one of the cornerstones of the new IPU strategy for 2022-2026 which was recently adopted at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid in November 2021. It recognizes the need for decarbonization and stronger implementation of the Paris Agreement in order to address the climate crisis. The IPU stands ready to help parliaments achieve these objectives, including through national and regional capacity-building activities.

The IPU regularly works with technical partners to ensure parliamentarians have the latest scientific knowledge on renewable energy. Following the publication of a joint policy note for parliamentarians on green COVID-19 recovery, the IPU and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have been providing national and regional support to parliaments on promoting a green recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on strengthening legislation on clean energy. Parliaments have the ability to introduce legislation that can incentivize green investments, scale-up financial resources for renewable energy and create employment in the clean energy sector. It is important that parliamentarians recognize these opportunities and consolidate efforts to implement them.

When considering actions to support the clean energy transition, time is of the essence. The 2022 edition of the IRENA Legislators Forum provides a timely and important platform for rich discussions and knowledge-sharing among parliamentarians on critical actions they can take to accelerate the clean energy in their respective countries. Together, we can advance the renewable energy agenda for a more sustainable future.

I look forward to the fruitful discussions and debate that will occur during this Forum. I wish you a very successful event.

Thank you very much.