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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

SDG Summit  
Leaders' Dialogue 2: "Building resilience and leaving no one behind"

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Parliaments have important responsibilities in turning the SDG aspirations into action and results at home.

Through the IPU, parliaments have committed to taking that action, through legislation, oversight, and budget appropriations. We have seen and documented important examples of political leadership. For example, the parliaments of Serbia, Pakistan, Chad, and many others established parliamentary bodies on SDGs to lead and coordinate parliamentary action. Many parliaments acted on individual SDGs. The parliament of Rwanda amended legislation to expand civil registration to ensure individuals a legal identity and thus access to vital services. The parliament of Benin, with IPU's help, adopted a law that aims to harmonize coordination of the chemicals and waste management sector. And the list goes on.

Building resilience for the people and the planet is at the core of IPU's efforts to promote the implementation of the SDGs.

The IPU's Parliaments for the Planet Campaign, launched at the 146th IPU Assembly in Bahrain in March 2023, mobilizes political action and enhances parliamentary capacities for climate action, underscoring the crucial role of parliamentary bodies in addressing climate change. The campaign has brought attention to the critical role of parliamentary bodies in addressing climate change and offered significant insights into effective parliamentary action. The campaign underscores parliaments' critical role in addressing climate change through robust national legislative frameworks aligned with the Paris Agreement. It emphasizes that effective parliamentary action extends beyond policy enactment to include vigilant oversight, inclusive representation, and appropriate resource allocation. While principally they can contribute to the climate agenda via their core functions, parliaments can support national climate action by defining strategies and implementing initiatives to reduce emissions and improve the sustainability of their activities such as emissions tracking, sustainability audits, green procurement, and sustainable transportation. Fostering a culture of sustainability and climate awareness within parliamentary bodies is essential. These efforts collectively contribute to greener and more environmentally conscious parliaments.

The IPU Member Parliaments adopted a resolution on universal health coverage in 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic, parliaments reported challenges in ensuring equity in access to health services, including in countries with well-functioning health systems; and new barriers for vulnerable and marginalized populations, including misinformation. Despite the diversion of attention and resources, some parliaments were able to keep the focus on long-term health goals. The Parliament of Thailand investigated people's rights under UHC; Australia prioritized women's well-being and rights in the budget; The Gambia passed a new law to diminish out-of-pocket payments to access healthcare. Parliaments have a vital role to play in accelerating progress and help shape models that reflect local needs and resource availability. Interparliamentary exchanges and collaboration with other stakeholders are vital parts of the process of sharing lessons, providing support and building parliamentary capacity.

The IPU remains committed to mobilizing parliaments around the SDG implementation, to deliver for what matters, for the people and the planet, for our common future.