



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speaking notes for Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

2023 Global Futures Conference
International Systems for Better Global Futures

New York, 19 September 2023

- Introduction from Amanda Ellis as outlined in email:

MARTIN, you represent a double first – first non-European and first African to serve as SG for the world's oldest multilateral body, the IPU, with 179 member countries. You also chair the International Gender Champions across the UN system. We are delighted to have worked together on SDG5 for gender quality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to now be collaborating on the IPU global campaign Parliaments for the Planet.

- Many thanks Amanda,
- Honoured guests and fellow participants,
- As Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), I am honoured to address you today at the Global Futures 23 Conference here in New York. We are sincerely grateful to the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory of Arizona State University, in collaboration with the Earth League and Planet, for convening this important event.
- This gathering serves as a testament to our collective commitment to shaping a brighter future for our world. I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to share with you the critical role of parliaments in building better global futures.
- Parliaments have immense potential to drive effective climate action. As legislative bodies, they shape laws, policies, and regulations for sustainability, resilience and emission reductions. They oversee progress, allocate resources, and ensure accountability. As advocates for the people, they bring diverse perspectives into climate action, making policies inclusive and responsive, reflecting the needs of all. These crucial functions demonstrate the fundamental role parliaments can play in climate governance.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the international organization of parliaments of sovereign states. Established in 1889, it has a membership of 179 national parliaments. The IPU serves as a global nexus for parliamentary cooperation, facilitating the exchange of ideas and fostering mutual learning among nations. In this capacity, the IPU occupies a distinctive role within the landscape of international governance.
- The IPU has made supporting parliaments and parliamentarians in their efforts to tackle climate change a priority. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the IPU has demonstrated a strong commitment to raising awareness and mobilizing political will around climate action through political mobilisation, capacity building, tools and resource development and supporting parliamentary engagement in the COPs.

- The IPU's Parliaments for the Planet Campaign, launched in March 2023, is a concerted effort to mobilize political action and enhance parliamentary capacities for climate action. Recognizing the pivotal role of parliaments in addressing climate change, the campaign aims to inspire and encourage greener practices within legislative bodies and empower parliamentarians to effectively implement the Paris Agreement
- At the IPU we believe that a key aspect of unlocking parliaments' potential in the context of climate action lies in supporting the political leadership and representation of underrepresented groups, including women and young people. Supporting women's political leadership and representation in parliaments leads to stronger climate policies, while empowering youth political leadership ensures their voices are heard in shaping climate related decisions.
- As parliaments work towards achieving greater gender equality (considering that only 26.5% of the world's MPs are women) and increasing representation of younger members (with less than 3% of MPs under 30), it's vital to ensure that these endeavours also contribute to more inclusive climate decision-making.
- At the IPU we are committed to advancing gender equality by promoting the inclusion and participation of women in parliaments and advocating for gender-sensitive policies and legislation. We encourage youth participation in parliaments and empower young MPs. We mainstream climate change across all of our workstreams effectively leveraging different voices and perspectives to support collective climate action. This inclusive approach not only enhances the IPU's advocacy efforts but also magnifies the impact of parliamentarians worldwide in driving transformative climate policies and promoting a future that is both environmentally sustainable and socially just.
- The IPU acknowledges the urgent need to push the boundaries of discourse and action on how we can, and indeed must, take action to preserve and heal our planet. Our world is in need of immediate and concerted efforts to alleviate the strains placed upon it by global society. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important discussion and let us continue our collective journey toward a better global future.