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Speech for Mr. Martin Chungong IPU Secretary General

Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting: Closing Session

Quy Nhon, 13 September 2023

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to address you today at the closing of this Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting. As I remarked at the opening of the meeting, this meeting aimed to realize the vision of unity through science for the purpose of peaceful coexistence and act as a platform for dialogue between parliaments on subjects related to the IPU's core objectives. The objective was for this meeting to be a space for exchange, learning and meaningful dialogue between parliamentarians, scientists, and experts on the theme of science for peace and water security. These past three days, I understand you have all demonstrated that science can indeed provide a neutral platform for dialogue between various parties from different background in the search for sustainable solutions for the benefit of all.

Over the past three days, you have had the opportunity to discuss key topics such as what scientific cooperation models can bring to politics, innovative technologies which can be used to ensure sustainable water management and how these innovations can be harnessed and integrated into practical solutions, multilateral, regional and bilateral water diplomacy, and how anticipatory science can support legislators in their policymaking. In your workshops you have shared many important good practices and effective parliamentary action from various national contexts, in addition to some common challenges that have been discussed. It is clear that there is no universal path to water security, but by sharing best practices, we can work together to find solutions which can be integrated according to specificities, needs and priorities of each country and region.

I hope you are leaving this meeting with renewed inspiration, energy and commitment to tackle water insecurity, bringing home with you a wealth of new contacts and networks which you can use to support you in your work at home, to continue bridging the gaps between the legislative and scientific communities, putting evidence-based decision-making at the centre of the work of parliaments. I trust that you will return home with a new perspective on water security, and what you can do to ensure that people around the world, no matter where they live, have reliable access to safe and clean water.

I would like to again convey my sincere gratitude to our partners here at the ICISE, who have welcomed you so warmly in Quy Nhon, and supported the realisation of our common belief in the concept of science for peace. We are grateful to you all for your hard work and dedication in allowing this meeting to happen. I would also like to warmly thank the Qatari Shura Council for their strong and continued support to this joint project, we are honoured to work on these important objectives together.

Furthermore, let me extend sincere thanks to the participants, speakers, and moderators of this event for committing fully to the principles of this meeting, staying open minded and listening to the voices of those around you. By doing so, you are moving closer to finding solutions for the benefit of humanity.

From the IPU's side, it was an honour to organize this meeting on this important topic. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with our Members, the ICISE and other partners to realize the vision of unity through science for the purpose of peaceful coexistence. Thank you.