



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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## Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Side event: WHO's upcoming strategy and its financing  
Organized by WHO

Luanda, 26 October 2023

Honorable Members of Parliament,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address you at the beginning of this side event organized by our partners of the World Health Organization. Our collaboration spans a decade, in which we have strived to build bridges between the scientific and parliamentary communities. In 2018, our collaboration was further expanded with a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding covering the areas of women's, children's and adolescents' health; universal health coverage; and global health security. At the core of it, the objective is to strengthen parliamentary capacities and equip parliamentarians to engage on key health challenges at the national and global levels.

In 2019, the IPU Member Parliaments adopted a landmark resolution on universal health coverage, stressing that health is an investment in people and well-being. Building on WHO expertise, we are able to support parliaments in understanding UHC as a political objective and reflect on the solutions and models that are more adapted to their local context and resources.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the IPU and WHO joined forces to provide parliamentarians with up-to-date information at key stages of the pandemic. We further strengthened our engagement on global health security, as highlighted once more during the workshop held this morning on the development of the Pandemic Accord. The pandemic has shown us that health is a fundamental sector for our societies and economies, and most importantly for the well-being of individuals and communities. It has also given us a deeper understanding of the value of cooperation and solidarity.

The pandemic and further trends towards polarization and the erosion of rights, are also affecting the right to health, especially sexual and reproductive health. With WHO and other partners, we have been keeping these issues high on parliamentary agendas and provided spaces for dialogue.

As you know, today's complex challenges cannot be tackled in isolation. Multilateral organizations such as the IPU and WHO have an important mandate in pursuing the global common good. Support, including funding, of these organizations, is therefore critical for stability and an investment in a better, more sustainable, peaceful and equitable future.

The IPU is putting greater emphasis on collective action, inclusivity and accountability. We will continue to work closely with WHO to help parliaments raise to the key health challenges we are facing and open avenues for our partners to engage with the parliamentary community.