



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Second Global Parliamentary Summit on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism  
Opening session

Luanda, 25 October 2023

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

IPU started working in cooperation with its partners such as UNODC, PAM, the Arab Parliament and the Interparliamentary Committee of the G5-Sahel to draw awareness to the situation in the Sahel region and the concern of the security threat and how this has the consequences on the development of these countries and the direct effect on the populations.

The IPU has given priority within the programme of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism to the alarming situation of the Sahel, especially the situation of the citizens.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who collaborated with the IPU to implement the Call of the Sahel. This initiative was adopted at the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism held in 2021. After two years of intensive work, the time had come to examine the outcomes of implementing the Call of the Sahel. Despite its challenges, the work was enriching and fruitful.

The Call of the Sahel was implemented through a plan of action that focused on five key topics: environment, community, security, education and development. The topics were discussed in five thematic meetings and were an opportunity to get the points of view of experts in the respective fields and learn about the priorities of the Sahel countries. The topics were dealt with through the lens of human, state and regional concerns.

Participation at the thematic meetings was extensive and involved parliamentarians, representatives of regional parliamentary assemblies, United Nations agencies, international organizations, the World Bank, the Institute for Economics and Peace, academia, non-governmental organizations, community leaders, religious figures, youth and women.

Today, we proudly present The Global Response to the Call of the Sahel. It covers country priorities with a focus on empowering youth, girls and women and emphasizes that development, accompanied by security measures and good governance, is the key to overcoming the region's challenges. The overall aim of the Response is to bring a sustainable solution to the Sahel region's problems.

The Response also highlights the importance of addressing the worrying situation in the Sahel region, not only in terms of the deteriorating security situation and persistent threats by terrorist groups but, above all, in term of their consequences which affect and hinder the Sahel countries from achieving stability and security, and reaching the guiding ideal of the Sustainable Development Goals which is to "Leave No One Behind".

It was concluded at the thematic meetings that the terrorist threat the Sahel countries suffered mainly affected the region's stability and development, which meant there could be no progress or hope for their citizens. Hence, there is a need to focus on development in these countries, but development is accompanied by a strategy to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

Targeting development as the key to the betterment of the Sahel countries also means creating opportunities for their populations, especially for young people, who represent the majority of the unemployed population, which is one of the reasons why they align themselves with terrorist groups.