



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

Workshop on the development of the Pandemic Accord

Luanda, 26 October 2023

Honorable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this workshop on the development of the Pandemic Accord that we are organizing with our longstanding partner on health, the World Health Organization. Indeed, our partnership is instrumental to align technical and political efforts to address the main health challenges we are collectively facing. The prevention of the next pandemic is of course one of them.

As the world is facing conflicts, natural catastrophes, and the threat of climate change, we cannot forget the magnitude of suffering and disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is why, a new international agreement is being negotiated. It will be crucial to have a global framework to sustain political will and strengthen preparedness. However, a broader effort is needed to build more resilient and inclusive societies.

First of all, we need trust. The COVID-19 pandemic eroded public trust in institutions, increased social tension and polarization. Parliamentarians can engage with their communities, support programs and policies that address inequalities, and promote human rights, so as to contributing to trust-building.

Secondly, solidarity within and between countries. The pandemic hit harder those who were already disadvantaged and facing discrimination and marginalization. At the global level, distribution of vaccines did not enable timely access by countries which could not produce and pay for them. Parliamentarians can help promote collective action and work across policy divides to address persisting inequalities.

Finally, parliaments can be the drivers of national dialogue, to define health security within their contexts and identify local needs. This dialogue should start now, to be ready for ratification and implementation when the Pandemic Accord is adopted.

The IPU has been strengthening engagement on global health security, building political will and opening avenues for our partners to engage with parliamentary institutions. Last year, we launched a joint handbook with WHO as an essential tool for parliamentarians and parliaments to bolster emergency preparedness and health security. Through workshops such as this one, we are offering a space to inform about current global developments, exchange with experts, and share country practices and challenges. Next month, we will convene a regional conference for parliaments of the African region to ensure they can tailor solutions that are relevant to their communities.

I therefore encourage you to engage in open and constructive dialogue to shape our path toward a more resilient, equitable and sustainable world.