



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

The Second Global Forum of interparliamentary cooperation
in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

30 November 2023

Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Mr. Nurdinjon Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Ms. Paula Narváez, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council
Ms. Pia Kauma, President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Ms. Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Federation Council of Russia's Federal Assembly, head of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly
Mr. Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Mr. Mehmet Sureyya Er, Head of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States
Ms. Consuelo Vidal Bruce, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. Uzbekistan

Distinguished guests,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very honoured to address you at the beginning of this event, whose first edition provided the opportunity to discuss the draft of the first UN resolution ("Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs) focusing solely on the role of parliaments in implementing the SDGs. We are very grateful to Uzbekistan, the initiator of this resolution, for its strong commitment.

Parliaments can and must in fact play a crucial role in bringing the SDGs to life through their powers. And governments, through the adoption of this resolution, have clearly demonstrated their openness to enhance cooperation with parliaments to fully implement the 2030 Agenda.

I am very proud that, through the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy, Member Parliaments have reiterated their political commitment to sustainable development and have also collectively decided that action in this area should be prioritized over the next five years.

Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The UN Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report shows a disturbing picture of the lack of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In-depth analyses and estimates indicate that just 12% of the SDG targets are on track.

Under current trends, by 2030 only about one third of countries will meet the target to halve national poverty levels. Inequalities are at a record high. It has been estimated that almost 300 years would be required to close the gender gap in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws. Concerning climate change, carbon dioxide levels are rising to a level not seen in two million years.

Current actions to address the crisis are definitely not sufficient.

All of this means that if we don't play our part now in making the SDGs a reality, there won't be future generations and our present will increasingly be characterized by widespread poverty, conflicts, and irreversible losses in our ecosystems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As representatives of the people, and through your parliamentary responsibilities, you can help boost the change we want to see in the world.

Based on the experience and work the IPU has been conducting in this area, I would like to set out some concrete activities that you, as parliamentarians, could undertake to help develop sustainable and inclusive progress in your country, but also in your region and around the world.

- 1) **Help implement the provisions of the UN resolution** "Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs" as a priority. Use it to enhance dialogue and cooperation with your government – including within the context of international and regional monitoring processes like the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as the relevant forums organized by the UN Economic Commissions in your respective regions.
- 2) **Advocate** for national development which pays equal attention to sustainable and inclusive economic growth, health and the well-being of all people and the planet. Make sure that policies, laws, programmes and budgets contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in an effective and coherent manner. If your Parliament has not yet established a mechanism or procedure to mainstream and deliver on the SDGs, advocate for this.
- 3) **Align** your work and political agenda **with the SDGs. Build alliances** within your parliament, with the executive branch and other relevant stakeholders. **Coordinate actions** and make sure they are aligned with international and national agreements.
- 4) Increase opportunities to **consult citizens**, especially those that are underrepresented, marginalized and/or in vulnerable situations – to understand how things are progressing and if current strategies need to be adjusted. Involve them in the SDG implementation process. Inform the government if there is a need to correct actions.
- 5) Last but not least - disaggregated data is extremely important to monitor the implementation of the SDGs, however its availability is still limited. **Request data from the national statistical office and help ensure that such offices are adequately funded.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Action for sustainable development begins at home and should not stop there.

It is my hope that during this event you will actively engage with the issues at stake, share your views and experiences, discuss with peers common concerns as well possible solutions to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in a coherent and integrated manner.

I wish you all fruitful and constructive discussions.