



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

How can women and young MPs make the difference in climate governance?
Partnerships for change, COP28

Dubai, 6 December 2023

Members of parliament,
Representatives of governments and international organizations,
Youth and women's leaders from around the world,

It was a great pleasure to join you for this vibrant discussion today on how women and young MPs can be vectors for more inclusive and effective climate governance.

Today, we've not just participated in a discussion; I hope we've ignited a new movement. This historic meeting within the Blue Zone of COP marks a milestone for parliaments. It's a clear testament to the growing, indispensable role that they play in the global climate dialogue.

I wish to warmly thank the FNC and the UAE for championing this movement and successfully breaking in new ground. I also wish to thank UNFCCC for also opening up this door which parliaments from around the world have walked through with enthusiasm.

At the IPU, our conviction is unwavering: the power of women and youth is not just transformative, it's our most strategic investment for a sustainable future. The impact of youth-led climate activism and the proven effectiveness of women in parliamentary roles in driving environmental policies are not just inspiring; they are reshaping our world.

- Youth-led activism has had tangible effects on public opinion and policies. In several countries, a majority of the public supports more aggressive action on climate change following youth actions. Their voices as negotiators on climate are vital.
- A higher share of women in parliament has been linked to improvements on the SDG agenda and in environmental quality. National parliaments with greater female participation also tend to enact more stringent climate policies.

This data, and what we have heard today, shows how inclusiveness, diversity, and partnership are more than ideals – they are the very mechanisms through which we can deliver better results. The evidence is clear: where young voices resonate, and women lead, environmental policies are strengthened.

Today's discussions crystallize the vital role of parliaments as pivotal players in the climate action ecosystem. It is a platform where all our interests meet: governments, international actors, civil society, and activists. As the embodiment of the people's voice, parliaments are where the aspirations of women, youth, and all citizens transform into impactful public policy. We stand as the architects of necessary legislation and as vigilant overseers ensuring that government commitments on climate change are not just promises, but actions.

In this common mission, we are more than participants; we are your dedicated allies, and a force of gravity that can bring all of us actors together to a common destination for change.

Dear friends,

As we conclude this landmark meeting, let's carry forward the spirit of today. Let's not view this as an end, but as an exciting beginning. I hope we can continue to work together in the inner halls of COP. You can count on us to be here as an ally for cooperation and action.

Thank you.