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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

World Government Summit 2024  
XDGs 2045: Sustainable Development Ministerial Roundtable

Dubai, 12 February 2024

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to address you today at the World Governments Summit, a gathering of minds committed to shaping the future of our planet. As Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I stand before you with a sense of urgency and optimism as we discuss the progress with SDG implementation and think about the next global development agenda.

Our world is facing unprecedented challenges, from climate change to inequality, from pandemics to technological disruption. In the face of these challenges, it is imperative that we come together as a global community to forge a path forward that is inclusive, multi-stakeholder oriented, achievable, sustainable, and futuristic. The IPU is fostering a dialogue among the world parliaments that aims to chart a course of action on these issues and the SDGs as a whole.

First and foremost, inclusivity must be at the heart of our agenda. We cannot hope to address the complex issues facing our world if we leave anyone behind. This means actively involving voices from all sectors of society – governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and most importantly, the communities most affected by our decisions. Inclusivity also means recognizing the interconnectedness of our challenges and the need for collaborative solutions that transcend borders and boundaries, while paying particular attention to the vulnerabilities of least-developed countries. The outcome document of the IPU Parliamentary Meeting at COP28, adopted by the world parliaments last December in Dubai, calls for inclusive and equitable climate strategies that recognize the needs of different populations, including by advocating for leadership roles for women and youth in climate action.

Secondly, our agenda must be multi-stakeholder oriented. No single actor can solve the challenges we face alone. We must harness the collective wisdom, resources, and innovation of governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and individuals to drive meaningful change. This requires new models of collaboration and partnership that foster trust, transparency and shared accountability. Forums like our Summit today are indispensable for a multi-stakeholder dialogue to continue.

Thirdly, our agenda must be achievable. While we must set ambitious goals, we must also be realistic about what can be accomplished within the constraints of time and resources. This means prioritizing actions that have the greatest impact, leveraging existing initiatives and institutions, and building on past successes while learning from our failures. We need to act fast, in particular on climate change and its devastating impacts on people and the planet.

Fourthly, our agenda must be sustainable. We cannot afford to pursue short-term gains at the expense of long-term prosperity. We must adopt a holistic approach to development that balances economic growth with social equity and environmental stewardship. This means investing in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and resilient communities, while also addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation.

Finally, our agenda must be futuristic. We must think beyond the immediate horizon and anticipate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This requires foresight, innovation, and bold thinking. It means embracing emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and renewable energy to shape a more prosperous and equitable future for all. A network of parliamentary committees of the

future is taking shape under the IPU auspices to provide a platform for parliamentary exchanges, mutual learning, cooperation, and support. The IPU is also working on a resolution on the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law that we hope will provide recommendations to reconcile the foundations of our world today with the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence.

It is my hope that through collective action and shared vision, we can build a world that is more just, resilient, sustainable and prosperous for generations to come.

Thank you.